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Mines, forests and waters.

Minutes of proceedings and evidence

1963 no. 1-6



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HOUSE OF COMMONS

First Session—Twenty-sixth Parliament

1963

STANDING COMMITTEE

ON

MINES, FORESTS AND WATERS

Chairman: OSIAS GODIN, Esq.

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AND EVIDENCE

No. 1-6

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1963

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1963

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1963

Respecting

BILL C-83 (Subject)

An Act to amend the Northwest Territories Act and to rename the said Territories, and to effect certain consequential changes in the Statute Law with respect thereto.

and BILL C-84 (Subject)

An Act respecting the Nunassiaq Territory.

WITNESSES:

Messrs. K. Lang, E. J. Gall, P. W. Kaeser and J. Goodall, the four elected Members of the Territorial Council of the Northwest Territories.

ROGER DUHAMEL, F.R.S.C.

QUEEN'S PRINTER AND CONTROLLER OF STATIONERY
OTTAWA, 1963

STANDING COMMITTEE ON MINES, FORESTS AND WATERS

Chairman: Osias Godin, Esq.

Vice-Chairman: Grant Deachman, Esq.

and Messrs.

Alkenbrack
Asselin (*Richmond-
Wolfe*)
Berger
Blouin
Cadieu (*Meadow Lake*)
Cyr
Deachman
Dinsdale
Doucett
Fleming (*Okanagan-
Revelstoke*)
Flemming (*Victoria-
Carleton*)

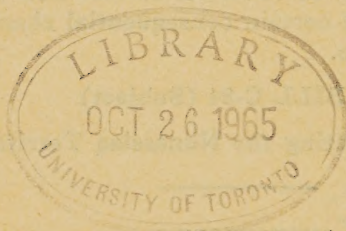
Gendron
Godin
Granger
Gray
Grégoire
Habel
Harley
Herridge
Laprise
Leboe
Leduc
Loney
MacInnis
Martin (*Timmins*)

Martineau
Mitchell
Moreau
Nielsen
Rhéaume
Rideout
Roxburgh
Simpson
Turner
Watson (*Châteauguay-
Huntingdon-Laprairie*)
—35.

(Quorum 10)

Maxime Guitard,
Clerk of the Committee.

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ORDERS OF REFERENCE

HOUSE OF COMMONS,
THURSDAY, June 27, 1963.

Resolved,—That the following Members do compose the Standing Committee on Mines, Forests and Waters:

Messrs.

Alkenbrack,	Flemming (<i>Victoria-</i>	Loney,
Asselin (<i>Richmond-</i>	<i>Carleton</i>),	MacInnis,
<i>Wolfe</i>),	Gendron,	Martin (<i>Timmins</i>),
Berger,	Godin,	Martineau,
Blouin,	Granger,	Mitchell,
Cadieu (<i>Meadow Lake</i>),	Habel,	Moreau
Cadieux (<i>Terrebonne</i>),	Harley,	Otto,
Cyr,	Herridge,	Rhéaume,
Deachman,	Irvine,	Rideout,
Dinsdale,	Langlois,	Roxburgh,
Doucett,	Laprise,	Simpson,
Fleming (<i>Okanagan-</i>	Leboe,	Watson (<i>Châteauguay-</i>
<i>Revelstoke</i>),	Leduc,	<i>Huntingdon-</i>
		<i>Laprairie</i>)—35.

(Quorum 10)

Ordered,—That the said Committee be empowered to examine and inquire into all such matters and things as may be referred to it by the House; and to report from time to time its observations and opinions thereon, with power to send for persons, papers and records.

WEDNESDAY, October 9, 1963.

Ordered,—That the name of Mr. Nielsen be substituted for that of Mr. Irvine on the Standing Committee on Mines, Forests and Waters.

FRIDAY, November 15, 1963.

Ordered,—That the subjects dealt with in the following Bills be referred to the Standing Committee on Mines, Forests and Waters for consideration:

- (1) Bill C-83, An Act to amend the Northwest Territories Act and to rename the said Territories, and to effect certain consequential changes in the statute Law with respect thereto.
- (2) Bill C-84, An Act respecting the Nunassiaq Territory.

Ordered,—That the name of Mr. Howard be substituted for that of Mr. Herridge on the said Committee.

TUESDAY, November 19, 1963.

Ordered,—That the name of Mr. Grégoire be substituted for that of Mr. Langlois on the Standing Committee on Mines, Forests and Waters.

STANDING COMMITTEE

FRIDAY, November 22, 1963.

Ordered,—That the names of Messrs. Turner and Gray be substituted for those of Messrs. Cadieux (*Terrebonne*) and Otto respectively on the Standing Committee on Mines, Forests and Waters.

TUESDAY, November 26, 1963.

Ordered,—That the Standing Committee on Mines, Forests and Waters be empowered to print such papers and evidence as may be ordered by the Committee, and that Standing Order 66 be suspended in relation thereto; and that it be granted leave to sit while the House is sitting.

Attest.

LÉON-J. RAYMOND,
The Clerk of the House.

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

MONDAY, November 25, 1963

(1)

The Standing Committee on Mines, Forests and Waters met at 2:10 o'clock p.m. this day, for organization purposes.

Members present: Messrs. Blouin, Cyr, Flemming (*Victoria-Carleton*), Godin, Habel, Harley, Leduc, Loney, MacInnis, Mitchell, Moreau, Nielsen, Rhéaume, Turner, Watson (*Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*).—(15).

The Clerk of the Committee attended the election of the Chairman.

Mr. Moreau moved, seconded by Mr. Turner, that Mr. Godin be elected Chairman of the Committee.

Thereon Mr. Habel, seconded by Mr. Leduc, moved that the nominations be now closed.

Thereupon, Mr. Godin was declared duly elected as Chairman. The Chairman thanked the Committee for the honour conferred on him.

On motion of Mr. Turner, seconded by Mr. Cyr,

Resolved,—That Mr. Deachman be elected as Vice-Chairman of the Committee.

Mr. Turner moved, seconded by Mr. Asselin (*Richmond-Wolfe*),

Resolved,—That a Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedure comprised of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman and five other persons designated by the Chairman be appointed.

The Committee agreed that the Chairman report to the House seeking permission to print.

It was agreed unanimously,—That the Committee seek authority to print from day to day, 1000 copies in English and 500 copies in French of its Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence.

On motion of Mr. Moreau, seconded by Mr. Cyr,

Resolved,—That the Committee seek permission to sit while the House is sitting.

At 2:25 o'clock p.m. Mr. Moreau, seconded by Mr. Habel, moved that the Committee adjourn until tomorrow at 3:30 o'clock p.m.

TUESDAY, November 26, 1963.

(2)

The Standing Committee on Mines, Forests and Waters met at 3:40 o'clock p.m. this day. The Chairman, Mr. Osias Godin, presided.

Members present: Messrs. Asselin (*Richmond-Wolfe*), Berger, Blouin, Cyr, Deachman, Dinsdale, Fleming (*Okanagan-Revelstoke*), Flemming (*Victoria-Carleton*), Gendron, Godin, Gray, Grégoire, Habel, Leduc, Loney, Mitchell, Moreau, Nielsen, Rhéaume, Turner, Watson (*Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*).—(21).

In attendance: Messrs. B. G. Sivertz, Assistant Deputy Minister of Northern Affairs, Wilfrid Brown, Deputy Commissioner, and the four elected Members of the Territorial Council of the Northwest Territories, Knut Lang, E. J. Gall, P. W. Kaeser and John Goodall.

The Clerk of the Committee read the Orders of Reference.

Mr. Knut Lang was invited by the Chairman to read his brief. The examination of two witnesses, namely Messrs. K. Lang and E. J. Gall ensued.

Mr. Grégoire, seconded by Mr. Fleming (*Okanagan-Revelstoke*) moved that the Ministers of Natural Resources of both the Provinces of Quebec and Ontario be invited to appear before this Committee in order to express their opinions on the limits of the boundaries of their respective Province in relation to those of the Northwest Territories.

In amendment thereto, Mr. Nielsen moved, seconded by Mr. Rhéaume, that the Minister of Northern Affairs of Canada be also invited to appear before this Committee in order that a Federal point of view of the question be also heard.

By unanimous consent, the Committee agreed to let that motion and its amendment stand until the examination of the witnesses is completed.

Mr. Nielsen moved, seconded by Mr. Rhéaume, that the usual expenses be paid to the four Members of the Territorial Council of the Northwest Territories, as from November 25 and during the time they are required to appear before the Committee.

Thereupon, the Chairman asked both the mover and the seconder to let their motion stand until next meeting in order that he be given time to inquire on the legality of such a motion which, *prima facie*, seems to be contrary to the procedure in such instances.

The Chairman's request was agreed to.

And the examination of the witnesses continuing, at 6:20 o'clock p.m. Mr. Nielsen moved, seconded by Mr. Rhéaume, that the Committee adjourn until tomorrow at 9:00 o'clock a.m.

WEDNESDAY, November 27, 1963.

(3)

The Standing Committee on Mines, Forests and Waters met at 9:20 o'clock a.m., this day. The Chairman, Mr. Osias Godin, presided.

Members present: Messrs. Cadieu (*Meadow Lake*), Cyr, Deachman, Doucett, Fleming (*Okanagan-Revelstoke*), Godin, Granger, Gray, Habel, Leduc, Mitchell, Moreau, Nielsen, Rhéaume, Turner, Watson (*Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*).—(16).

In attendance: Messrs. B. G. Sivertz, Assistant Deputy Minister of Northern Affairs, Wilfrid Brown, Deputy Commissioner, and the four elected Members of the Territorial Council of the Northwest Territories, Knut Lang, E. J. Gall, P. W. Kaeser and John Goodall.

Before resuming the examination of the witnesses, the Chairman ruled as acceptable the motion presented at yesterday's meeting pertaining to the payment of the expenses incurred by the witnesses appearing before this Committee.

The Chairman suggested though, that the motion, in order to be more appropriate and usual, should read as follows:

Moved by Mr. Nielsen, seconded by Mr. Rhéaume,

That the usual living expenses be paid to the four members of the Territorial Council of the Northwest Territories from November 25th and during the time they are required to appear before the Committee.

Both the mover and the seconder agreed to the changes suggested, and so did the Committee.

On motion of Mr. Rhéaume, seconded by Mr. Mitchell,

Resolved,—That two maps of the Northwest Territories be affixed as Appendices to the Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence of this morning's sitting, one showing the actual electoral constituencies, and another showing the future electoral constituencies emerging from the proposed Mackenzie and Nunassiat Territories.

(See Appendices A and B to this day's evidence.)

The witnesses were examined and withdrew.

At 10:45 o'clock a.m., the Committee adjourned until 3:30 o'clock p.m., this afternoon.

WEDNESDAY, November 27, 1963.

(4)

The Standing Committee on Mines, Forests and Waters met at 3:30 o'clock p.m. this day. The Chairman, Mr. Osias J. Godin, presided.

Members present: Messrs. Alkenbrack, Asselin (*Richmond-Wolfe*), Deachman, Fleming (*Okanagan-Revelstoke*), Godin, Grégoire, Laprise, Loney, Nielsen, Rhéaume, Turner.—(11).

Some members having left the room, at 4:00 o'clock p.m., there being no quorum, the Chairman adjourned the meeting to the call of the Chair.

Maxime Guitard,
Clerk of the Committee.

EVIDENCE

TUESDAY, November 26, 1963.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, we have a quorum. The meeting will come to order.

As we start this first meeting it would be fitting to read the order of reference which was indicated to this committee. I ask the Clerk to read the terms of reference.

The CLERK:

Friday, November 15, 1963. Ordered that the subjects dealt with in the following bills be referred to the standing committee on mines, forests and waters for consideration: first, Bill C-83, an act to amend the Northwest Territories Act and to rename the said territories, and to effect certain consequential changes in the standard law with respect thereto; Second, Bill C-84, an act respecting the Nunassiat Territory.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Secretary.

I believe copies of both bills have been passed to members of the committee. I trust all members have their copies. I do not know whether these are printed in both languages.

The main purpose of our meeting this afternoon is to hear the councillors of the Northwest Territories who are in Ottawa at the present time. I trust we may proceed in a fashion which may permit them to see their families in the near future.

We have with us here this afternoon Mr. Lang, Mr. Gall, Mr. Goodall and Mr. Kaeser. Of course, we also have representatives of the government and appointees to the council. To my left is Mr. Sivertz, the deputy commissioner, and Mr. Jones, and then Mr. Brown of the Department of Northern Affairs.

I would like to call Mr. Lang before the committee. Mr. Lang has informed me that he has prepared a memorandum for the committee, which I think I should ask him to read. He has presented me with copies of this memorandum.

Before we proceed, are there any remarks or suggestions from members of the committee?

I will call upon Mr. Lang.

Mr. KNUT LANG (*Member of Northwest Territory Council for Mackenzie Delta*): Mr. Chairman, I am very happy to be able to address your committee regarding the proposed division of the Northwest Territories.

The present Northwest Territory comprises an area of approximately 1,300,000 square miles.

It has long been felt that it was far too large and unwieldy to govern effectively as a single unit, and at the January 1960 session of the Northwest Territory Council it was proposed to divide it into two separate territories. The council then in office accepted the idea favourably and discussed many details at two meetings. The next elected council, which held its first meeting in January 1961, was also in favour of division, and the matter was thoroughly discussed and eventually brought before the federal government. This is now before your committee.

If the division goes through as proposed, we will have Mackenzie Territory in the west with close to 500,000 square miles of territory and about 16,000 inhabitants, and Nunassiat in the east with a little more than 800,000 square miles and about 8,000 people.

I may state here that the four elected members of the council now before you are well qualified to speak for the people in the north, as we have over 140 years of permanent residence in Northwest Territory between us, and the welfare of its people is a matter of great concern to us.

Personally, I am a resident of Mackenzie Delta of 35 years standing. The north is my home, and I sincerely believe this division is the logical move to make. I feel we are ready to take this step towards a closer-to-home form of government, with a commissioner for the new Mackenzie Territory sitting permanently in Fort Smith.

I can truthfully state that not one single protest against this division has yet come to my notice in my constituency of Mackenzie Delta with its close to 4,000 inhabitants. As for the rest of the territory, the only opposition appears to be a rather small but well organized section of mining interests in the south-east, whose main objection seems to be based on a fear of higher taxation.

I shall go over some of the main reasons for division.

We have in the west a population of approximately 16,000 with about 60% natives; in the Delta we have as high as 86% natives. All these natives have had at least a hundred years or more of contact with the white race. Most of them can speak English, and many of them can hold their own in competition with the whites. In the Delta all three races, Eskimo, Indian and white live harmoniously together, and racial friction is practically non-existent. In the east most natives still live in a very primitive state and most of them are still illiterate.

The west feels that the east is holding it back. In the west the people take keen interest in elections and vote intelligently. They are very anxious to create a fifth constituency which would result in a new Mackenzie territorial council with five elected and four appointed members, which will give residents a stronger voice in territorial matters.

We also hope that the new Mackenzie territory government can take over most of the civil service and absorb some of our own girls and boys in various jobs as they leave our schools, and they will be graduating in great numbers in the next few years.

Another hope is that the Mackenzie territory government will be able to integrate welfare and housing under one authority instead of three as at present. This will mean a grant from Indian Affairs for Indians and a grant from Northern Affairs for Eskimos, but it should be well worth the effort and should contribute greatly towards eliminating petty grievances among the ethnic groups.

Banks and Victoria Islands are included in the new Mackenzie territory. The natives on those islands have expressed themselves strongly as wanting to join the west. From the very beginning these islands were supplied with groceries by the Hudson Bay Company from the west, and their outlook is strongly western. The natives own considerable equipment in the form of small schooners. Many of their children go to school in Inuvik. Cambridge Bay on Victoria Island gets its mail from Norman Wells; the air distance is less than that between the Wells and Inuvik. All heavy freight and supplies go in by water from the west, most of it via Mackenzie River and Tuktoyaktuk.

We realize that for many years yet Mackenzie territory will require federal help as at present, but with the roads to Slave Lake and Yellowknife now in operation and the railroad to Pine Point nearing completion, Mackenzie territory will develop much faster as a separate unit than it could as part of

Northwest Territory, and with its own Mackenzie territory government sitting at Fort Smith a far more efficient system than at present could be developed to deal with our biggest problem today which is finding work for our fast increasing native population, with the many youngsters who will be pouring out of our schools at a rapidly increasing rate in the near future.

These young people can evolve into our biggest future asset if we can manage to educate and train them to develop our enormous potential resources in the largely unknown pre-Cambrian Shield in the east and the equally unknown Rocky Mountain area in the west. In the Mackenzie Valley we have oil-bearing formations to a depth of 20,000 feet, extending north to a depth of 40,000 feet under some of the arctic islands.

So much for the Mackenzie territory.

As for the eastern section to Nunassiat, it will be slower developing. The population of close to 8,000 in an area of over 800,000 square miles, have not had the benefit of education like the people in the west; they got the franchise for the first time in the 1962 federal election. I feel they will benefit by the division. They will have an opportunity to elect two members out of a seven member territorial council with its home in Ottawa. This follows the same pattern as we went through in the west; and eventually it will lead to a fully elected council and provincial status, although it will be many years hence.

In my opinion we have a wonderful north country, and I sincerely hope we shall be able to develop it as fast as possible. I believe this can best be accomplished by going ahead with the proposed division as quickly as possible.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Lang.

Mr. Lang understands and realizes that members may require additional information, and he has said that he would be happy to reply to any questions put by members of the committee.

Mr. TURNER: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask Mr. Lang one or two questions, and to say to him how grateful we are that he and his confrères have stayed over in Ottawa for the extra time in order to allow the committee to hear what they have to say about these two important pieces of legislation.

Mr. Lang, do I understand that the original impetus behind the idea of dividing the territory came from the north? Whose idea was it?

Mr. LANG: That is right, Mr. Chairman. I have been a resident in the delta for a little over 35 years, and I am very familiar with the natives in that country. For a number of years we have been discussing among ourselves what would eventually become of this north country. Many of the natives are raising families down there, and they are sometimes worried about what will happen in the future.

From those discussions there gradually evolved the idea that we could move faster if we were alone. We have far too big a territory. When I was elected as a member of the territorial council I found that, although the people in the east had nothing whatsoever to do with my election, I was supposed to attend to eastern affairs; and I did not know anything about the east and had very little opportunity to find out. I was very happy when we eventually had a meeting in the east, in Chesterfield Inlet. This was my first trip to the east. I felt strongly that I could not obtain sufficient information really to be responsible for their affairs. That brought up the idea—and I talked it over with people in the delta, and every man I saw was in favour—that a closer-to-home government was required; that it would be easier to reach a government sitting in Fort Smith than it would be to reach a government in Ottawa; and also that our territory was far too large for the facilities.

Mr. TURNER: Did you bring the matter up before the territories council?

Mr. LANG: I brought it up right here in Ottawa in January, 1956. It was accepted favourably by the council at that time. They all realized that this question was a big one and that it required careful consideration. They proceeded to look into several questions. At every meeting since, this matter has been brought up for discussion. Since that time we have had a new council elected, and the new council also appeared to be in favour of this division.

Mr. TURNER: Did the council have an opportunity to inspect the text of the two bills? Did they inspect bills C-83 and C-84?

Mr. LANG: Yes, we had them at our meeting in Inuvik this last summer. They were sent by special delivery. Our then commissioner, Mr. Gordon Robertson, handed out these bills.

Mr. TURNER: What decision did the council take after having inspected those two bills?

Mr. LANG: We were all in favour of passing these bills, and we were asking the federal government to consider these bills in the house. I think that was done. We put in a resolution asking that these bills be considered, intimating that we were all in favour of seeing them passed.

Mr. TURNER: You have mentioned that the people in your own district of Mackenzie delta are in favour of these bills. Has this matter of the division of the territories been discussed widely in the north?

Mr. LANG: Yes, it has. We have some individuals there who are not able to read or write, and I think the percentage of illiterate people is far greater in the east. In a large territory such as that, with a large total population of natives, there are a number of people who do not really understand what the division is about, I will admit that. However, the intelligent natives and the white population are all in favour of it. Whenever they have had it explained to them, they have been in favour of the division. Sometimes an Indian who cannot read or write will come to me and ask, "Are you going to make a new territory?" They mix it up with the game zones, for instance. After an explanation, 90 per cent of them understand.

Mr. TURNER: Has there been any publicity so that people know what is happening in regard to the division of the territories?

Mr. LANG: Yes, there has, Mr. Chairman. It was published, and we did receive a few pencilled notes from here and there. But the northerner is not a man who is a very great writer; he does not believe in writing letters, and as long as things go favourably for him he does not say anything, he is quite content. If it had been, for instance, a matter of Inuvik or Aklavik and caribou, you would have heard everything from everybody. They are not bashful about approaching one on these matters. In this case they were favourable, and their attitude is "why write if it is favourable".

The CHAIRMAN: We have an interpreter if interpretation is required. However, I understand an interpreter is badly required in another place.

Mr. NIELSEN: If anyone speaks French, then I need a translation.

Mr. GRAY: Mr. Chairman, will we be having any witnesses who will be speaking French?

The CHAIRMAN: Not to my knowledge.

Mr. GRAY: This committee is bilingual. I think all the members are bilingual.

The CHAIRMAN: Then the interpreter can perhaps carry on. Mr. Turner?

Mr. TURNER: I have no further questions to ask.

Mr. RHÉAUME: On page 2 of your brief in the second paragraph you say:

We also hope that the new Mackenzie Territory government can take over most of the civil service and absorb some of our own girls and

boys in various jobs as they leave our schools, and they will be graduating in great numbers in the next few years.

Do you see any reason why the federal government, or the federal department operating in the north right now should not be doing this?

Mr. LANG: We discussed that subject at various times in the council and we came to the conclusion that the territorial government taking over the civil service would lean more towards accepting youngsters and giving them credit for being born in the Northwest Territories and knowing conditions there. Also we felt that if we could send our own boys and girls out and educate them, they would be more likely to come back and stay in the territory. And we felt that as far as the federal civil service examinations were concerned, if our boys and girls had to take them, they would be under a handicap because they were brought up in the territories and there were many things down here which they did not understand.

Many of those people in the north lack the early home training that white children outside get in a good white home. So we felt if we could establish a slightly different rule when we took over, or when our territorial government took over, we might establish a slightly more favourable rule under which to accept these youngsters and give them credit for being born in the territories and of knowing conditions there better.

Mr. RHÉAUME: You feel that the federal government cannot or is not doing this under the present set up?

Mr. LANG: They are not prepared to do it with the small number of people coming from the north. If they have a federal civil service examination, they are not going to give people of the Northwest Territories any benefit from being born there. They demand the same from them as they do from those who were born outside. I think some of our people are just as intelligent as white people. But they would only suffer from having been born in the territories if they are going to have to make a living down here. I say that the federal government would not be prepared to treat them differently, or give them any benefit. So I feel we are ready when I say that we would like to see our territorial government take over the civil service.

Mr. RHÉAUME: At the time this was discussed in the council meeting, what timing was suggested for the territorial government to operate its own federal services in the area which you are discussing now?

Mr. LANG: When I brought the matter up I suggested that it be done as soon as possible after the territorial government took over in the new Mackenzie territory.

Mr. RHÉAUME: I would like to ask if any schedule was presented to the council indicating it would be likely that the new council or the new government of the Mackenzie territory would be in a position to do this, and if any information was suggested to the council when this might occur?

Mr. LANG: No, not that I recall. It may have been done, but I do not recall that it was. We all expressed the desire that we get along with it and that it be done as soon as possible. But we all realized that there were many difficulties to overcome. I do not remember any special date or time being mentioned. I would not want to say no, but it is just that I do not recall.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any other questions?

Mr. NIELSEN: Mr. Lang, do you agree with Mr. Justice Sissons when he says that there are intelligent people in the Mackenzie area of the Northwest Territories who are capable of fulfilling the functions of elected councillors as such which you and your colleagues appear to do, and do you think there are sufficient numbers to form a council of whatever size might be set up in the Mackenzie territory within reason?

Mr. LANG: If I understand you rightly, when you ask if there is sufficient, do you mean natives or whites?

Mr. NIELSEN: I mean people such as yourself and your colleagues.

Mr. LANG: Yes, I feel that there are sufficient men in there. I have been living there for a long time. A lot of us are prepared to work in this territory to the best of our ability. But there is also such a thing as having your own business to attend to, and sometimes people simply cannot spare the time which is necessary.

Mr. NIELSEN: We realize that in large measure the federal purse is involved with the payment of an indemnity to councillors who serve on the council. But if the indemnity were adequate do you think there would be any difficulty in obtaining the required number of people as capable as yourself?

Mr. LANG: You mean within the territory?

Mr. NIELSEN: Yes.

Mr. LANG: I do not think there would be any difficulty. I think we could get sufficient.

Mr. NIELSEN: You think you can?

Mr. LANG: Yes.

Mr. NIELSEN: Well, under the circumstances, for a moment disregarding other considerations, would you think it desirable that if these two new territories were created, that in the Mackenzie side, at any rate, the whole number of elected members of council should be elected by the people, rather than to have five elected and four appointed?

Mr. LANG: I have always been in favour of going slow, and I feel that the system we have in the present council with elected members and a majority of appointed members has been of benefit. But I think the time has come now when we should switch over and get a majority of elected members. I think we have reached that stage. Take a man who has been spending a lot of his time in the territory like myself. However well intentioned I may be, there are a lot of questions I do not understand, such as legal questions and so on. That is why I have always insisted upon retaining some of these appointed members. We have had some excellent members, and I think they have done their very best, and to the best of their ability. I think the system has worked satisfactorily so far.

Mr. NIELSEN: Now I can take it from your answer that the value you place, and rightly so, upon appointed members of the council thus far has been in the excellent advice that the elected members of the council have been able to obtain from their capable civil servants and those who have been appointed to the council?

Mr. LANG: That is quite right, but when you say advice, there are different types of advice. As far as grassroots information goes, they were not advising us. We were advising them. But when it comes to technicalities, we are learning from them, and we accept their advice. Personally I have learned a lot in the six years I have been on the council, and I feel that I am now able to handle questions I was not able to handle when I first joined.

Mr. NIELSEN: If the same kind of advice were made available to you with the same capabilities through the officials of the Department of Northern Affairs and others, when your council sessions were held, just as they are in our own committees here in the House of Commons, would not that same function be followed, would the council not operate just as efficiently if it were elected, depending upon your having sufficient numbers and variety of advisers in order to assist you in your deliberations?

Mr. LANG: Yes, I believe it would, as long as we could find sufficient numbers. I do not see why it should not. I do not see why it would not be

just as effective. They might even be better, because if they are residents of the territories, they would have a lot of information which members from Ottawa, for instance, would not be able to get. I think I would be inclined to favour it.

Mr. NIELSEN: You prefaced your remark by saying that you were much more familiar with the Mackenzie side than you were with the eastern side.

Mr. LANG: Definitely.

Mr. NIELSEN: Would you care to venture an opinion whether the remarks you just made in reply to my question in connection with the Mackenzie side would be equally applicable to the eastern side?

Mr. LANG: Well, with a smaller population—I am not an expert on that question; but with a smaller population on the eastern side it might be difficult at the present time to find sufficient numbers in that group of 8,000.

Mr. NIELSEN: You mean people who would be capable in your view of fulfilling the functions of elected members?

Mr. LANG: Yes. As far as my opinion goes, and I have done a lot of thinking about it, I think we can get the right approach here. We are starting this off gradually. They have never yet been working in territorial elections, and now they will get a chance for the first time when they elect a national council. I think that is the way they have to go, gradually so they will get a responsible kind of government as people increase in numbers, and they would be able to take it over.

Mr. NIELSEN: I have been following one particular phase of questioning here. I have several other phases to follow, but I am prepared to discontinue my questioning on this particular phase at this time.

Mr. RHEAUME: At the time this was under discussion in the territorial council, how much time was spent, from your own experience with council, on this question whether you should change the nature of the council in the number of elected members? How much time was spent by council in discussing this, and whether there were sufficient people capable of forming an all elected council?

Mr. LANG: That is a very difficult question to answer because these meetings took place over a period of three or four years. But there was never any strong objection to this proposed change as I recall it. As to how much time was spent on it I cannot say, because I never did consider that question before. Moreover, it is far too long ago now for me to remember.

Mr. RHEAUME: Presumably at the July session of the territorial council bills C-83 and C-84 were looked at. And there is a section in there to provide that the council shall consist of nine members. I refer to section 9 of Bill C-83, which says:

There shall be a council of the territory consisting of nine members, four of whom shall be appointed by the governor in council and five of whom shall be elected to represent such electoral districts in the territory as are named and described by the commissioner in council.

Presumably when Bill C-83 came before the council, it involved this subject matter. Was this clause not the subject of examination and discussion by the territorial council, whether or not we should still retain four appointees?

Mr. LANG: I do not understand your question. When it came up as far as we understood, it was suggested that when a new election for the Mackenzie territory council should get underway, we would have five constituencies instead of four, and that there would be five elected members and four appointed members. But someone on the Northwest Territories council insisted that we have four elected and five appointed, and continue with that.

Mr. RHEAUME: You do not recall whether the territorial council in their deliberations of the whole range of bills C-83 and C-84 specified or concentrated discussion particularly on this point, whether it would be fully effective. Since there was a clause in there to make the number five instead of four—do you recall whether there was much discussion of that?

Mr. LANG: I do not think there was too much. We all did a lot of independent reading as far as this bill was concerned. We took it home and did a little homework on it. As far as I am concerned, the way I understood it was that whenever the new Mackenzie territorial council should come up, we would have five constituencies at that time. We also have a map set up showing broadly the outlines of the constituencies. We had three choices, and we could choose between them and pick the one most favourable. We had quite a majority.

Mr. RHEAUME: I have one other question of Mr. Lang: at any time did the territorial council in its deliberations examine the possibility of changing this clause 9, wherever there was no possibility in view of the size of the existing constituencies, of there being a greater number of constituencies than nine? Was there any discussion entered into as to the size of the council?

Mr. LANG: There is no such thing as nine constituencies.

Mr. RHEAUME: When the council met do you recall any discussion when the council thought at the time there should be a fairly drastic change, whether it should be 15, or whether the number should be reduced? Do you recall any deliberations about that?

Mr. LANG: Yes, we discussed the matter. I forget who brought it up. Maybe it was myself. But when Pine Point is developed, and we have this proposed election in 1964, that is where we put it. We thought that would be the way these things would work, and that we would be holding elections in April in 1964 to create five constituencies and elect five elected members. Then I brought it up as a suggestion that when Pine Point got into the operation within the next two or three years we hoped that we would have another election in 1967, and that would be three years, and we hoped to create six constituencies and have six elected members, with only three appointed.

Mr. DINSDALE: I wish to pursue this particular point for the moment and ask Mr. Lang what he thinks of the prospects for native northerners being elected to the Northwest territorial council, or to the new council as representatives from one or more of the five constituencies?

Mr. LANG: I would be very happy to see that. I have been talking to some of the young natives down there and suggested to them—especially in the case of one young Indian of approximately 30 years of age now who is, I think, developing quite a keen sense and interest in the government of the territories. He is raising a family and is a type of man who is intelligent and is worried about the future of his family. But I think that they are under a little bit of a handicap there, because this Uniak Indian, should he get elected, which he possibly might, would be in favour of his own Uniak people to the extent that some other races would suffer. They have not got the wide outlook and background that the white man has.

I myself have travelled all over the world and to me one man is just as good as another. I do not care what colour or race he belongs to. If he is a man, he is good enough for me and I will accept him at his value. I think that is where I may run into a little racial discrimination. We cannot blame the young Indian for it. All he has ever seen has been Indians. He never heard of any others, and he is in favour of handling everything from the Indian point of view. Otherwise I would be very much in favour of seeing some of these young natives elected.

By the way, when I suggested some of these new constituencies, I had that thought in mind, because the new constituency that we propose to call the Arctic will take in Tuktoyaktuk, and it will also take in Inuvik in population. But the rest would mainly be Eskimo, and I would be very happy to see a young Eskimo, or a young part Eskimo, come into the council as one who knows what the conditions are. I would like to see such a person elected as the next member for that section. And I think we may see it happen, too.

Mr. DINSDALE: In the light of what Mr. Lang has said I conclude that he feels that in the Mackenzie constituency, or speaking of the people in the delta constituency, it would be possible for a native northerner to be elected by the ordinary electoral process.

Mr. LANG: I think so. We very nearly had one elected at one time. I cannot go into the details of it, but unfortunately, at the time we were not happy about the present member, and the Indians were very strongly in favour of getting somebody else. In fact, they approached me to run at the time.

Mr. NIELSEN: With the next member to be yourself?

Mr. LANG: I saw an old chief and I asked him who he wanted to have run, and he wanted to have the Anglican clergyman run. But things being as they were, I explained to him that it would be rather tough on the other religious parties. So I advised him not to "run" the Anglican minister. But that man actually got within 57 votes of being a councillor.

Mr. DINSDALE: In the preliminary stages do you think it might be a good idea, in regard to appointed members, to consider the appointment of native northerners to council because of the difficulties which you have outlined and the possibility of a little bit of racial segregation? It might in the preliminary stages ease this problem and provide the northerners with legislative experience were they to be appointed to council?

Mr. LANG: Yes, in one way I think it would be a very fine thing. The qualities that up to the present time we have looked for in our appointed members are not particularly those of knowledge of the north country. It has been rather technical knowledge, like that of a lawyer or an engineer, and so on. But as far as appointing natives goes, all they would know would be at the grass roots level of the country. We are fairly familiar with the areas. Having lived there for 35 years, there is not much they could teach me about the grass roots level. The idea is attractive. I do not know how big a council we could afford, but it would be very nice to have one Eskimo, and one Indian, in an advisory capacity, or perhaps as appointed members. However, we still must have some appointed members in order to get technical information. As we have more and more elected members we are going to be rather short of appointed members. Perhaps we will finally end up with Eskimos and Indians with the remainder being elected members.

Mr. DINSDALE: Would you say that, as a result of the speed of the educational process in the north, it will be possible within the immediate future for an educated native northerner, who has special training, to take over some of these functions of the council?

Mr. LANG: What exactly do you mean by "immediate future"?

Mr. DINSDALE: How far in the future do you think it will be before the prospective native northerner who has gone through the educational process will be able to perform the functions of council and take an active part in the activities of the council, not only from the standpoint of grass roots knowledge but also from the standpoint of technical and special knowledge?

Mr. LANG: Mr. Chairman, I feel that a man must be at least 35 years old before he can assume these functions, so that the answer to your question

depends on the age at which a potential Indian or Eskimo commences education. I believe last year was the first year we had grade 12 pupils graduating from our schools. Therefore, I would suggest that it will be approximately 15 years before these individuals would qualify in this regard.

Mr. DINSDALE: Thank you.

Mr. TURNER: Regarding the ratio between elected and appointed members, Mr. Lang, I take it if this legislation is passed and there are four elected out of the nine, or five elected out of the nine, you are presently in favour of that situation?

Mr. LANG: That is correct. I am completely in favour of that ratio, provided that every two or three years one further elected member is added to that ratio.

Mr. TURNER: You are satisfied with the present ratio as outlined in the bill?

Mr. LANG: I certainly am satisfied in that regard, yes. We do not want to proceed too quickly in this direction but, at the same time, this is the time to bring in more elected members.

Mr. TURNER: Is your view shared by other members of the council?

Mr. LANG: They can, of course, speak for themselves. I only speak for myself. However, I gather from discussions that they are quite satisfied and very happy about this ratio.

Mr. NIELSEN: Mr. Chairman, I thought I had established a point here, but Mr. Turner seems to have reversed it. I should like to express my own views regarding this matter, Mr. Lang, and then ask you whether or not my views would meet with the acceptance of the people in the Mackenzie area as you know the conditions there.

I understand that you believe there should be as full representation in a democratic fashion as possible. While there may have been an excuse in the past for having appointed members to the council, I do not believe that those excuses are valid any longer. In my view members of the council are now appointed under the guise that this is the only method by which elected members can obtain the guidance and assistance, at the grass roots level, which is necessary. However, I believe that the same guidance and assistance can be provided by elected members.

The CHAIRMAN: Pardon me, Mr. Nielsen. Have you a question to ask the witness.

Mr. NIELSEN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I intend to ask the witness a question.

The CHAIRMAN: I am afraid the witness will not be able to recall all your remarks. You are not now a witness before this committee and I would appreciate your asking short questions. I am sure Mr. Lang cannot remember all your remarks.

Mr. NIELSEN: Mr. Chairman, it is not my intention to confine my participation in this committee's proceedings to the asking of questions. It is my intention, as it has been in other committees, to make suggestions and present my views. I do not take your remarks to mean that I will be prohibited from following that course.

The CHAIRMAN: I do not suggest that you are not entitled to explain the purpose of your questions, Mr. Nielsen.

Mr. NIELSEN: I take it this is a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Surely the function of a member of a committee is not to confine himself to questions, but to express his own views. If this is not done and these views are not exposed so other members of the committee can evaluate them in order to come to some conclusion in our final recommendation to the House of Commons, I

feel the committee would not be fulfilling its functions. What I was doing was laying the groundwork for certain questions which I intend to ask Mr. Lang by expressing my own views. I then intended to ask Mr. Lang whether in view of his knowledge of the situation and people in the Northwest Territories he agreed with those views.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Nielsen, while the witness is before this committee we should ask him questions. We can choose another time to deliberate and express our points of view. I do not think we should take the time of this committee, while witnesses are appearing before it, to express our own points of view. We will have all the time we require to deliberate and express viewpoints after we have heard witnesses, but at this time I think it is only fair and proper to ask the witnesses questions in an attempt to find out what they think about this bill so that at some future time we can come to some proper conclusion.

Mr. NIELSEN: That is precisely what I have had in mind, Mr. Chairman. I think you have misconstrued my intention. I did not intend to contribute to any deliberation at this time. I was putting my view to the witness and intended to ask the witness, in light of his knowledge of the people and area, whether he agreed with my viewpoint.

The CHAIRMAN: Very well, you may continue.

Mr. NIELSEN: Mr. Lang, I do not know whether my trend of thought has remained with you, but I should like to ask you the following question. My feeling is that there should be a council of five or perhaps seven, depending upon your knowledge of the geography and people living in the various areas of the Mackenzie district, who are wholly elected, without appointed members on the council, with the proviso that the indemnities are sufficient to attract men of the calibre to which you have referred. I am sure there are men of this calibre in the Northwest Territories capable of fulfilling the function of the elected members to the council. I would also add the proviso, that the council be assured of technical advice and assistance which is now available to them through the guise of appointed members to the council in much the same fashion as the council of the Yukon Territories now operates. I recommend a wholly elected body having the assurance that it will be provided with technical advice and assistance on the part of the department, the territorial government, as well as the other assistance now provided. If these assurances were forthcoming, do you feel that your constituents in the Mackenzie area would welcome the opportunity of having a fully elected, not wholly responsible council, without appointed members? I do not suggest that this elected body would have control of the purse strings.

Mr. LANG: Mr. Chairman, I should like to ask a question. Am I allowed to ask a question?

The CHAIRMAN: Do you wish an explanation of the question?

Mr. LANG: Yes. What is the ratio of natives to white men in the Yukon Territory?

Mr. NIELSEN: I will answer your question after I have made the following observation.

Mr. LANG: And when you do, perhaps I will be able to answer your question.

Mr. NIELSEN: The ratio of eligible native electors in the Yukon is about 1,000 in 6,000. There are approximately one sixth of the total who are native.

Mr. LANG: That is approximately 18 per cent.

Mr. NIELSEN: That is approximately 18 per cent. You must remember that all the Indian and Eskimo people in the Mackenzie district always have had the right to vote, just as any other Canadian citizen.

Mr. LANG: The point I want to make, Mr. Chairman, is that it is all very well to say that we have capable men who can be elected in the Mackenzie district who possess the ability to function as well as appointed members, but can we get them elected? Eighty-six per cent of our population in the Mackenzie district consists of natives. They are not going to elect men unless they know them very well. They are more likely to elect a man such as myself, or the other members here today, who have spent a long time in that area. The native does not always vote for an issue. There are many things he does not understand and he votes for the man in many cases. He will vote for a man he has known for a long time and who has treated him fairly and squarely. The native will go a long way to vote for such an individual. I think it will be a little difficult to elect an expert engineer who knows all about engineering but very little about the natives.

Mr. NIELSEN: Is it not right, Mr. Lang, that the eligible electors should decide who shall represent them rather than have these representatives appointed by the governor in council?

Mr. LANG: I think you have a point in regard to elected members and appointed members, so long as the elected members have the ability to represent the people.

Mr. NIELSEN: I am suggesting that the advice and assistance which is now available continue to be made available.

Mr. RHEAUME: Mr. Chairman, I should like to ask a question in regard to the subject discussed by Mr. Nielsen. Every legislature in Canada, be it provincial or federal, has access to advice, but are the advisers allowed to vote? The elected members are answerable to the people but the advisers do not have a legislative function as such, and cannot pass laws.

In view of what I have said, assuming that the Northwest Territories council had access to technical and procedural advice, just as the House of Commons has, would the provisions contained in this bill meet with your approval?

Mr. LANG: Yes. I do not know how we in the Northwest district could afford to have such a council at the present time, but in light of the gradual evolution through which we are passing at the present time, perhaps in three years we might have six or seven elected members.

Mr. NIELSEN: Mr. Lang, surely the expense would not be increased at all, because these advisers are there now in the form of appointed members. If the council had five wholly elected members without any appointed members these advisers would still be there to give advice?

Mr. LANG: I do not think I have any objection to five elected members in that respect, but this is a matter that the council will have to decide.

Mr. RHEAUME: Mr. Lang, I suggest this is a matter for the federal house to decide. The federal house can, without the passage of Bill C-83, change the clause to read, there shall be five members on the council in the Mackenzie district and there shall be five constituencies. This is something that the federal house can do, if such a change were necessary.

Mr. LANG: I would like to give a little more study to this suggestion. Actually this has nothing to do with the present council. The next council will have to make a study in this regard. I should also like to study the Yukon council and compare it with our own.

Mr. NIELSEN: Perhaps we should arrange a mutual exchange.

Mr. LANG: I would agree to mutual visits.

Mr. NIELSEN: Assuming that the council was wholly elected, in your view how many members should there be to adequately represent the district?

Mr. LANG: I do not think five members could adequately represent this area. I think another member will be required when Pine Point comes into the territory.

Mr. NIELSEN: Would seven members be sufficient?

Mr. LANG: I think seven members would be sufficient at this time, but not permanently. You must remember that this is a very large territory. For the moment I think seven members could adequately represent the area. The northern constituencies are very large, but conditions in the Mackenzie delta are such that an individual could represent a constituency of perhaps Yellowknife, Pine Point and Tungsten, once that area is revived. I should say at the present time seven members would be sufficient.

Mr. GRAY: I gather from the remarks which have been made, Mr. Lang, that you and your colleagues are basically satisfied with the clause of the bill as it presently exists even though you hope ultimately to have all elected members to the council, is that right?

Mr. LANG: Are you suggesting that I am satisfied with four elected and four appointed members?

Mr. GRAY: Yes.

Mr. LANG: Yes. I can only speak for myself, but I am certainly satisfied with that suggestion at the present time. I do hope that within three years we will have six elected members rather than five.

Mr. TURNER: You would hope for a ratio of six to three?

Mr. LANG: No, six to three or seven to two.

Mr. GRAY: In other words, rather than having an all elected council at this time you would prefer to move forward step by step, adding one elected member every two or three years?

Mr. LANG: Yes, that is my point of view. Perhaps I am old fashioned, but I cannot change my view in this regard.

Mr. GRAY: So far as you are aware are you expressing a view similar to that held by other people of the western Arctic?

Mr. LANG: I do not think all people will agree with any idea, but certainly the majority are of the opinion I express. I have not heard complaints regarding the number of elected members and the number of appointed members, and I think this suggestion would meet with the general approval of the people. So far as I am aware this suggestion would not meet with protest on the part of my constituents.

Mr. GRAY: Mr. Lang, if all elected members combined they would represent the majority. Would you not be better off, as is the parliament of Canada, to have an appointed Senate and a House of Commons?

Mr. LANG: There has never been a situation where the elected members were against the appointed members as you have suggested. Each individual expresses his opinion and supports the point of view with which he is in agreement. Of course, on many occasions appointed members will vote with elected members against other elected members, and vice versa.

Mr. GRAY: The point about which I am trying to question you—and I am following Mr. Nielsen's procedure and approach to phrasing questions—is that in the case of some conflict between the appointed members and the elected members, the elected members would have the majority, so they could prevail.

Mr. LANG: In the new council.

Mr. GRAY: Which would seem to imply to me that if this bill were passed in this way you would be better off in that restricted sense than the parliament of Canada, where the appointed members of the Senate have exactly the same powers, with a few exceptions, as the elected members of the house.

Mr. LANG: Yes.

Mr. NIELSEN: There is no analogy.

Mr. RHEAUME: There are politics here, and there are not politics in the council. Mr. Gray should know that the commissioner has to give assent, and one person can withhold assent.

Mr. TURNER: We have the good fortune of having Mr. Nielsen and Mr. Rheaume with us most of the time; whereas we will not have the opportunity of hearing our friends from the Northwest Territories for too long. Perhaps we can revert to questioning the witnesses.

Mr. NIELSEN: I have another line to follow. Do you favour the present three-year term as opposed to a four-year term?

Mr. LANG: Mr. Chairman, I say a four-year term, but that is only my own personal opinion. I think a four-year term gives a man a better chance to pursue the particular things he is anxious to see accomplished. I think three years is a little short for this purpose.

Mr. NIELSEN: Recently there has been the establishment of a three-man advisory committee on finance for Yukon, and the three members are selected or elected from the council; they are not appointed. The council decides which three from their number will compose this committee. The commissioner will sit with this advisory committee on finance while he is preparing his budget for the territory and before it is presented to the department in Ottawa.

Do you think this would be a good idea for the Mackenzie Territory?

Mr. LANG: I have not had very much time to think about that particular matter. When one considers all the conditions involved, one may be dubious; but at first sight I cannot see why it should not be workable.

You mean three members elected by the council to sit with the commission?

Mr. NIELSEN: Yes.

Mr. LANG: I do not see any objection.

Mr. NIELSEN: You are not familiar with it?

Mr. LANG: No, I am not familiar with it. I am a traveller and a trader, and I am not too familiar with this. We do not deal in politics in the Northwest Territories; we speak up as businessmen and tackle the problems rather than dealing with people of political colours. I hope we can keep it that way for a while.

Mr. NIELSEN: You are missing a lot of fun!

Mr. RHEAUME: But you are probably accomplishing many things.

Mr. NIELSEN: On another aspect, I would like to ask this witness whether he is satisfied with the circumstances surrounding the administration of justice on the Mackenzie side, as far as he is aware of them. Are you satisfied with the machinery that is now set up for administering justice? I am referring in particular to courts.

Mr. LANG: Mr. Chairman, I will make no comment on that because I am not really qualified to do so. I cannot say that I am too familiar with the whole set-up; I am not a lawyer. There may be some very intricate situations upon which I would not be quite capable of commenting.

Mr. NIELSEN: I do not request you to comment upon personalities at all. What I am asking is, for instance, do the courts get around the country often

enough? Is justice delayed? Do you find people languishing in jail for too long? It is matters of this kind with which I am concerned.

Mr. LANG: I would be in favour of a little faster administration or a little more frequent court sessions, but I would also be in favour of a small court being set up in some of our town. I would certainly be in favour of fairly frequent, periodic visits from the courts. Sometimes many cases wait a long time to be dealt with, and I certainly think that is not a very good thing.

Mr. NIELSEN: As the bill is now drafted Mr. Lang, there is provision for a separate judicial system for the eastern Arctic, with a separate superior court judge and separate police and magistrates' courts, separate territorial courts and the like. From your knowledge of the geography and the problems that confront the people of the whole of the Northwest Territories, would you say that justice would be well served by a single system, but expanded in order to meet the needs which may not be met at the moment, rather than by duplicating two systems?

Mr. LANG: I do not know whether I am really qualified to answer such a question because there may be things involved there that I am not quite able to judge. I would say a single system would probably be the best.

Mr. NIELSEN: I want to ask the same question with regard to the federal civil service in the north. At the moment of course in the Northwest Territories it is all federal. Is that correct?

Mr. LANG: Correct.

Mr. NIELSEN: Under the existing provisions of the bill it will be possible, and if the Glassco commission recommendations are accepted it will be done, to have two separate civil service systems set up in each of these territories. To my mind this is an inexcusable duplication, but I was wondering what your views were on the matter.

Mr. LANG: We have some civil service, that is the territorial civil service. For instance, we have the liquor system. I think that under the present system it will probably be desirable to have only one system, but I do not think we should evolve to it immediately. We would have to take over the civil service and then the education. We may be able to handle both but I think that at the present time we should not take it over.

Mr. NIELSEN: This is what the bill provides and what the Gospel recommends. You do not agree with that?

Mr. LANG: I agree with it but it will take a while to get it done. It will at least take a period of adjustment.

Mr. NIELSEN: To single out one specific example, the jurisdiction to legislate with regard to matters concerning education will be one of those subject matters which will fall within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Mackenzie council when this bill goes through. Similarly, there will be that same jurisdiction with regard to the new territory of Nunassiat. In your view, would it be in the best interests of the people of the territories and of Canada as a whole to have a single unified system of education in both the territories under a single department of education?

Mr. LANG: If we could afford it. I think there are differences between the east and the west and there may be slight changes in the education system that would be desirable. I think we would be further ahead if we had one system in the west and one system in the east. For instance, I do not believe in applying the Labrador system in the Northwest Territories as it does not seem to fit and I would prefer to have one special system for the west.

Mr. NIELSEN: I have more questions but I do not want to appear to be consuming all the time.

Mr. GREGOIRE: I have one question, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask Mr. Lang if he would care and if the Northwest Territories would care if their frontier were limited to the three-mile limit off the coast of Ontario and around the province of Quebec?

Mr. LANG: Well, Mr. Chairman, do you mean would I object to it?

Mr. GREGOIRE: Would you object if the frontier were placed at a regular limit of three miles offshore?

Mr. TURNER: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I do not want to impede a legitimate line of questioning by my friend, Mr. Gregoire, but this does relate to the eastern Arctic. It does not have anything to do with the immediate purpose of the bill which is to divide the territory and does not affect the existing frontiers. Finally, Mr. Lang has been confining himself to his own experience in the Mackenzie delta, in the Mackenzie valley. He has been speaking more directly to the Mackenzie territory. While I would not insist at this stage on excluding the question, I would say that it would be well within the competence of the witness to decline to answer it as not being within his knowledge or not being his desire to state at the present time.

Mr. GREGOIRE: On that point of order, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Lang is an elected member of the Northwest Territories. There is no territory now such as Nunassiat or Mackenzie. As long as this bill is not passed in the house, this is only one territory. He is an elected member and he represents the interest of all those people in the Northwest Territories from the east to the west. I am asking him, and I think it is completely in order, what would be the reaction of the people in the Northwest Territories if the frontiers were established at a three-mile limit offshore, around the provinces of Ontario and Quebec. I think this is a question which is completely in order.

The CHAIRMAN: On the point of order, I would say that I realize the order of reference asked us to study the matters brought about by this bill. This bill has nothing to do with the frontier between any provinces and the Northwest Territories. It has to do only with the Northwest Territories itself. I believe this witness stated earlier in his testimony that he knew very little of the east of the territories; that he only paid one visit to the east during his career. I recall that the place he mentioned was nowhere near the eastern boundary of the Northwest Territories. Therefore, it is obvious from his testimony that the gentleman would not necessarily know the pertinent matters brought up by the question.

Mr. GREGOIRE: If it is because Mr. Lang does not know this part of the territory I will admit that he cannot answer the question, but I will not accept the limitation that we cannot go into this line of questioning because the question of the frontiers is exactly what this bill is now trying to delineate, the frontiers of these two territories.

The CHAIRMAN: The bills are only taking up one existing thing, that is what I mean. Your question now suggests some knowledge whereby the outside boundaries of the known Northwest Territories could be changed. The Chair permitted many questions pertaining to public opinion. Do you feel that the people there would favour this? Those are questions which the Chair permitted. I honestly feel that it is a difficult question to place on the shoulders of a witness and to ask him to speak for an entire population. Your question was whether the people there like this.

Mr. GREGOIRE: May I rephrase my question and ask him if, as an elected member himself, he would feel that it would matter very much to have this frontier settled at a three mile limit. I think the witness should be glad to answer such a question.

Mr. TURNER: On the same point of order, Mr. Chairman, I do not want at this stage of the proceedings to argue on a particular point of order concerning the relevance of whether the islands off the coast of Hudson Bay and the north of west Quebec come within the purview of the present bill. I will confine my point of order to suggesting to you, sir, that the witness, in view of the fact that the matter has not appeared within the two bills and to the best of my knowledge has not been discussed by the Northwest Territories Council, would be quite entitled to refuse to answer the question.

Mr. GREGOIRE: If he does not answer the question, I will understand, but I maintain it is in order to go into that subject because the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources has stated in the House of Commons that we will be entitled to inquire into this matter in the committee. That is the reason why this committee has been established, to inquire into this question.

Mr. RHEAUME: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, it is surely in order for any member of this committee to ask any of the elected representatives what their reaction would be to other proposals even though Mr. Lang, as I am well aware, represents the Mackenzie delta constituency right now as one of the nine men on the council. Surely the committee members have the right to pose certain problems to him and ask him, as a resident of the north and one of the nine men on the council, what their reaction is. He has the right to refuse to comment, but I cannot accept the restriction that we cannot ask Mr. Lang what he thinks the reaction to a measure somewhere else in the Northwest Territories would be.

The CHAIRMAN: You may ask any question of the witness pertaining to his knowledge, but the question was: how do the people feel about it out there.

Mr. GREGOIRE: If you ask me what my constituency feels about nuclear arms or about any other matter, I will gladly answer. We are elected to know what the people feel, what they think and what they want.

The CHAIRMAN: We do not wish to delay these gentlemen longer than necessary. You have asked this question. Mr. Lang, do you wish to answer it?

Mr. LANG: I can answer it in part. The natives in my constituency have never given a thought to the islands off Quebec, and I do not think that the principle of those islands is involved in this division at all. It will however be involved in future years if we split this territory into two. We will then have the territory of Nunassiat in the east, and that is the one in which you are interested. This is a purely territorial division but 40 years hence, or whenever Nunassiat becomes a province, will be the time to raise that question, in my opinion, because Quebec, Ontario and Nunassiat will be three separate provinces and it will be possible to fully answer that question. At the present time I cannot see that it concerns us.

Mr. GREGOIRE: I think that when Nunassiat becomes a province it will be too late then to ask them to depart from what is now their territory. If you look at the map you will see that Nunassiat will surround completely Ontario and Quebec. It will be a province surrounding the other provinces. That is why I think now is the time for the federal government to look at all these problems and to settle them if possible.

Mr. LANG: Of course, Mr. Chairman, I would not be able to answer that particular question because I have not consulted my constituents about this particular situation. They are totally unaware that such a problem exists. As far as I am concerned myself it was only a year ago that I became aware of this particular problem. I read some of your discussions in *Hansard*. However, my constituents are not aware of this. I feel I have no right to answer this question unless I consult my constituents at home about it. You cannot blame those people; they have never heard about those offshore islands, off Quebec. I cannot give you an opinion on it.

Mr. GREGOIRE: They never heard about it so that they would not bother with it.

Mr. LANG: Some of them have. They certainly heard about Quebec but they have not heard of that particular question about the islands off Quebec. They are beginning to get wise to that. Eventually I will see what their opinion is and may answer your questions but today I cannot answer the question conscientiously.

Mr. RHEAUME: I have a new line of questioning getting away from the islands.

Mr. GRAY: I want to follow this up briefly. To clarify this, Mr. Lang, your constituency, is that the part marked here on this map? What part of the map do you represent now? Would you show it to us on the map?

Mr. RHEAUME: It would be helpful if, in the provision of maps for the committee, we had a map of the existing constituencies and the existing set-up rather than the proposed map.

Mr. LANG: At the present time this is the proposed new constituency. My old constituency went roughly around here.

Mr. TURNER: Can you describe the places for the reporter to put them down?

Mr. LANG: My constituency goes from the far east and it includes Paulatuk and Stanton. It then goes south across the country and out to Good Hope. It does not take in Port Franklin.

Mr. GRAY: The population of your constituency does not come anywhere near the area that Mr. Gregoire was asking about. Is that right?

Mr. LANG: I think I pointed out to Mr. Gregoire that the people of my constituency had never heard about these islands. They have heard of Quebec but not about this question. You cannot blame them. Eventually this question will become a little more familiar to them and they may express an opinion. I do not feel I can express an opinion on behalf of my constituents without consulting them.

Mr. GRAY: If they do not have an opinion now it is not because they do not consider it important; it is because they are so far away from it.

Mr. LANG: They do not understand it.

Mr. GREGOIRE: Mr. Lang, do you not think it is time, while they do not bother too much about a fact like this one, to put in a new frontier while this is not a problem for them?

Mr. LANG: I gather you would like to see it settled now at this particular time.

Mr. GREGOIRE: It would be the best time to settle it.

Mr. LANG: But I just cannot see that this particular question is involved in what we are supposed to be discussing. As long as Nunassiaq is a territory, the borders are not changed anywhere and this does not change the status of these islands.

Mr. NIELSEN: It is involved to this extent that if there are qualified electors resident on those islands, for instance off the coast of Quebec, are they going to be entitled to vote in the Nunassiaq elections?

Mr. LANG: I can see complications here.

Mr. GREGOIRE: I would like to explain something to you on the map so that you can see it. The shore all around here, in Hudson Bay, in the province of Quebec, or in Ontario and in James Bay, is about two miles wide between low and high tide. The part where there is no water at low tide is the part we are discussing. When the tide is low, you are inside the northern territory. That is

why I thought that this is a problem which should be fixed one day and I asked if your people had an opinion about it. If they do not bother about it I think this would be the right time to fix this rather than in 10 or 20 years' time when that will become a big problem.

Mr. LANG: I can assure you there will be no problems there. That is my opinion at least.

Mr. TURNER: Except that your people have not thought about it yet.

Mr. GREGOIRE: It is time to settle the problem now.

Mr. TURNER: We could have Mr. Gregoire as a witness later.

Mr. GREGOIRE: Suppose we wanted to build a wharf. We could not build it there because this is your territory.

Mr. GRAY: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman; my question of order is this. While I think Mr. Gregoire does have some merit in his argument, this is a question we should consider to one extent or another some time during the course of our deliberations. However, I do think that in view of the fact that this witness represents an area which, in my opinion, looks like several thousand miles away from the area Mr. Gregoire is discussing, I think it would be more in order if this line of questioning were directed either to an elected representative from that section of the Arctic.

Mr. RHEAUME: There is none.

Mr. GRAY: Or then to some appointed officials of the department who are concerned with these problems and also in due course to our own discussions on the evidence that has come before us. I think we are being unfair to this witness who has been so kind as to give us the benefit of his experience in the north at great length, to press him for a detailed discussion of something with which he has had no opportunity to become familiar and which it is not his responsibility to be familiar with.

Mr. GREGOIRE: I have finished with my questioning.

The CHAIRMAN: May I make a remark for the benefit of the committee? No doubt the answer was limited and Mr. Gregoire said he has completed his questions pertaining to what any witness may think of the opinion or thoughts of other people. This would not be in order because it is hearsay evidence and it is of no help to the committee to ask a man what he thinks about what other people think.

Mr. GREGOIRE: He is a member of the council.

The CHAIRMAN: We would try to obtain from one man the opinion of thousands.

Mr. GRAY: I would also like to raise a question of privilege. Mr. Gregoire indicated that the boundaries of the territory of Nunassiat would surround the provinces of Ontario and Quebec. Coming from a far southerly boundary of the province of Ontario, the city of Windsor, I hope it can be clarified at this point whether this is really a fact, because if so then I should perhaps consult my own constituents as to the implications in this. I have not been aware that the territory of Nunassiat would surround the southerly portions of the province of Ontario.

Mr. NIELSEN: On the observations raised by yourself, in my opinion this committee should not be treated as a courtroom, and while hearsay evidence is not admissible in court, this committee I feel is sitting here to gather the feelings of the people of the territories about these bills. The best method available to us at the moment is through the elected representatives of those people.

Mr. TURNER: I should like to speak on that same point of order, Mr. Chairman. I know Mr. Nielsen is trying to be very helpful to the committee here but

the witness has stated that the matter did not come up before the Northwest Territories council; that he learned about this question himself by reading *Hansard* only a few months ago, presumably as a result of the intervention of Mr. Gregoire in the house, that his constituents do not presently have a view on the matter. No matter what line of questioning Mr. Gregoire feels he was able to obtain, I feel that the committee might perhaps get on to other matters more within the immediate competence of the witness.

Mr. GREGOIRE: I completed my remarks.

Mr. RHEAUME: On a point of order, it is important not only to the committee members but to these witnesses that they have an opportunity to talk not only about their constituencies but about parts of the Northwest Territories including the offshore islands that are not in their constituencies. If we even establish for one second that these men are not able to tell us what they think about Rankin inlet or Belcher islands, then we have to discard any of the evidence they give us on Nunassiat by the same token because they do not represent any constituency in the proposed new territory. My point of order is that the suggestion that an elected councillor not be asked to give opinions on parts of the Northwest Territories not in his immediate responsibility will restrict not only the members but the witnesses.

Mr. TURNER: On a matter of order, that was not, as Mr. Rheaume appreciates, the burden of my objection. The witness is asked to give answers within his knowledge and within the relevance of the discussions that preceded this bill in the Northwest Territories and within the competence of what his constituents have been considering. It is not within the competence of this committee to ask Mr. Lang to conjecture what the opinion would be or to hazard an opinion on something that hitherto has not been considered by him, his constituents or the Northwest Territories council.

Mr. RHEAUME: I agree.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any other questions to be put to Mr. Lang?

Mr. NIELSEN: I am afraid so. Mr. Lang, are you in favour of the Mackenzie territory, if established, having its own consolidated revenue fund rather than having it in Ottawa as it now is? Let me put it this way: are you in favour of the territories council having the power to spend territorial tax revenues for territorial purposes without intervention from Ottawa?

Mr. LANG: Territorial taxes you mean? That is a rather difficult question for me to answer because I know at the present time we are very highly dependent on federal funds to keep going, and that is a natural state of affairs with the territory as it gradually comes on to its own feet. As far as strictly territorial taxes are concerned, for instance liquor revenues, I would be in favour of letting the territories have authority to spend that on territorial issues. That would at least be my conclusion.

Mr. NIELSEN: That is the way it is in the Yukon. Are you for or against the territorial council in the new territory having the power, or any of its members having the power, to introduce a money bill which, as you know, you are not allowed to do now?

Mr. LANG: Would there be any limit on the amounts?

Mr. NIELSEN: By way of explanation I would say that I am sure you know that now the territorial council does not have that power. The only way that a money bill can be introduced is by the commissioner, but the territorial council, under the new legislation, would have the authority to accept or reject it. At the moment the only bill that a member of the council under the proposed legislation can introduce is a private member's bill. Would you be in favour of council members having the power to introduce a bill which would have the effect, if passed and accepted by the commissioner—because I do not suggest doing away with the checks there—of spending money?

Mr. LANG: I have never thought that situation over. On the surface of it, I think I would be inclined to favour that.

Mr. NIELSEN: There is that check and there is the proposed legislation.

Mr. LANG: I would not do without that check because we are receiving a lot of money at the present time that we are not earning and I would feel we need to be very careful. Many of us have not had the financial training that is necessary for that. I would very strongly emphasize that it would be subject to the commissioner's approval.

Mr. NIELSEN: Which in effect means the minister's approval.

Mr. RHEAUME: I have a new line of questioning. I notice that section 8 of the proposed Bill C-83 says: "the seat of government of the territory shall be at Fort Smith". I would like to ask Mr. Lang if he has any comment either for or against this particular location or if he has anything to say about the deliberations of the council that led up to the choice of one particular community over another, if he wishes to make the statement.

Mr. LANG: Mr. Chairman, I think that when this question was first raised—I am not certain whether I am right or not—I believe that Fort Simpson would have been preferred as the capital. Later on investigations and surveys were undertaken and it was found that the Fort Simpson location was not suitable for a large community. The only way we could have a capital close to Fort Simpson would be to build an entirely new town. We did not want to build another new one with a lot of expense, so the idea fell through and after that there was only the choice between Inuvik, Yellowknife and Fort Smith.

In respect of the Mackenzie delta, I was inclined to favour Inuvik, but I was not too sincere because as a member of the Northwest Territories council I just could not see Inuvik established as a capital. Some of my constituents did not like it too much. I worked for Fort Smith.

Mr. RHEAUME: You are in favour of that?

Mr. LANG: I am in favour of that. I have nothing against Yellowknife, but I cannot see the capital that far east. Fifteen years from now it may not be the town it is today.

Mr. NIELSEN: Do you favour the commissioner sitting as a voting member of the council as is proposed in the new legislation?

Mr. LANG: I think his advice is worth more than his votes. I think he will be a more effective commissioner if he can speak to the council as adviser.

Mr. NIELSEN: Do I take it from that that you are not in favour of his having the vote?

Mr. LANG: Maybe we are running into a conflict on a financial matter.

Mr. NIELSEN: No, we are not. In the Yukon he does not have a vote.

Mr. LANG: I would not be in favour of it; no. I think he can do a better job as an adviser to the council than as a voting member.

Mr. NIELSEN: Under the proposed legislation, jurisdiction for calling an election is placed in the hands of the commissioner absolutely. Do you feel the commissioner should have the absolute power to call elections, or do you think it should be upon consultation with the council?

Mr. LANG: I would be inclined to think he should consult the council on election matters.

Mr. NIELSEN: Do you think the territorial court of the new Mackenzie territory or Nunassiat territory should sit outside the new territories in any other province or area?

Mr. LANG: I do not think that possibility should be excluded, but as a general rule I think we should sit within the territory which we govern. However, we should not put down so strict a rule that we could not do this. Perhaps at some time some good might be accomplished by sitting outside.

Mr. NIELSEN: I am not speaking of appeals now; I am speaking of cases to be decided within the territories in the first instance.

Mr. LANG: I would be in favour of them being decided in the territories.

Mr. NIELSEN: I am not speaking of the council, but rather the territorial courts with a judge. Should that court and that judge be empowered to sit outside the territories in any other province?

Mr. LANG: On the surface of it I would be against that.

Mr. NIELSEN: I was going to ask this question with regard to the council. Do you feel the council should be required to hold its meetings within the territory?

Mr. LANG: As a rule, yes; but I think council under special circumstances perhaps should be entitled to hold one council session outside the territories, if it is agreeable to the council and the commissioner.

Mr. NIELSEN: In the manner in which the legislation is drawn in Bill C-84, in each year one of the sessions of council convened in that year shall be held in a place in the territories designated by the commissioner on recommendation of council and all other sessions of council convened in that year shall be held at the seat of government of the territory, which is in Ottawa.

Mr. LANG: It would be Fort Smith for the Mackenzie territory.

Mr. NIELSEN: But in the case of Nunassiat it would be Ottawa?

Mr. LANG: Yes. In the evolution of Nunassiat I think it would be very fitting to hold one council meeting in Ottawa because actually Nunassiat's home for some years yet to come would be Ottawa; Ottawa is the most central point of communication. But, I certainly think that there should be one meeting—two meetings a year and I gather the other meetings should be definitely held in Nunassiat.

Mr. NIELSEN: Are you prepared to endorse the suggestion which I make now, that the decision to hold a meeting outside of the Nunassiat territory of the council should be held at a place designated by the commissioner upon the recommendation of council; in other words, if the council wished to have the second meeting within the territory it should be held there?

Mr. TURNER: Are you talking about Nunassiat?

Mr. NIELSEN: Yes.

Mr. LANG: I do not see any particular objection to that. However, there may be other details involved and I am not too anxious to answer some of these questions as they concern matters to which I have not given any thought. You can often overlook details; I am not a lawyer and my mind does not work as fast. I am not so familiar with—not loopholes—legal terms. I do not think I am qualified to answer that.

Mr. NIELSEN: The Glassco commission has recommended, Mr. Lang, that the jurisdiction now held in the Indian affairs branch with regard to welfare and so on of the Indian people be transferred to the territorial government. Do you agree with that?

Mr. LANG: Would you repeat your question.

Mr. NIELSEN: It was recommended that the jurisdiction of the Indian affairs branch be transferred to the territorial government in respect of welfare matters.

Mr. LANG: I am in favour of that. Of course, we have three races in the territory and I feel that is a waste of effort and expense. For instance, we have welfare cases treated by the Indian agent; Eskimo welfare cases treated by northern affairs and we have the others, which means white and mixed bloods. As you know, there is an overlapping and I am in favour of getting them all under the one.

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): Have you had any contact with either the Indian or Eskimo people in your area in respect of this subject and do they express their opinions in this connection?

Mr. LANG: Yes, they have. They have expressed their dissatisfaction. For instance, if an Eskimo asked for relief he might get \$29 a week or whatever it is—it is an arbitrary figure—whereas an Indian might go in and get \$25 or \$35, and there is a great deal of dissatisfaction created.

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): Are you saying the Eskimos and Indians receive different rates of pay?

Mr. LANG: They have been, yes, on several occasions.

Mr. TURNER: You mean different rates of welfare, not of pay.

Mr. LANG: Yes, that is so.

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): Are there any Indians or Eskimos in your particular area who are aware of the different possibilities? You mentioned there is some dissatisfaction among Indians and Eskimos respecting the rate of their welfare payments; but have you had any expression of opinion by Indians or Eskimos in respect of this question Mr. Nielsen asked, whether or not they should come under the Northern Affairs Department or under the Indian affairs branch.

Mr. LANG: I have had lots of expressions about that and I always explain to them we should try to treat the man as a man, never mind whether he is Indian, Eskimo or white. If I have anything to do with it, when the new Mackenzie territory comes into effect, I will try to create conditions where Indians, Eskimos and whites will be treated as Canadian citizens and not on any ethnic background.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): We are all in favour of that. Could you tell me what the present situation is with regard to Indian and Eskimo employment in your area?

Mr. LANG: Well, it is a little complicated. Northern affairs are responsible for the Eskimos and, in the eyes of an Indian at least they are inclined to favour the Eskimo when a job comes up. I might say here that jobs are very scarce in the north. I do not think that it is always quite correct that an Eskimo is preferred because he is an Eskimo but I believe in some cases it does happen. That is the reason I stress very much that we should have some kind of agency that treats a man according to his ability and needs and not according to his racial background.

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): With regard to the civil service functions presently performed by whites, do you think many of those functions could be fulfilled by Indians and Eskimos who are being trained now?

Mr. LANG: Yes, I think it is particularly desirable. We already have a full-blooded Indian in Aklavik who acts as police officer. He is doing a very, very good job, I think, especially when you consider that he has to deal with some of his own relatives. I think he is doing a remarkable job. And we also have a part Eskimo at Inuvik who is doing the same work there and, in my opinion, he also is doing a very, very fine job. These people have not had very much education. But it is my hope that as soon as the youngsters can come into our schools and go out we will be able to handle the whole thing with people born in our territories. We would just take them according to their ability. We would not ask whether they were Eskimo or white.

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): Is this policy being carried out by all sections of the federal government?

Mr. LANG: There are some individuals who differ a little; but as a whole the civil servants down there are of excellent quality. We have had the odd misfit. But on the whole they are inclined to do a very good job, and I think they are doing it, too. They are conscientious. However people do make mistakes. It is often because they are not intelligible enough to know something. But they all learn by their own mistakes. It has not been done intentionally and I have found them to be a very fine type of people.

The CHAIRMAN: If there are no further questions of Mr. Lang, we thank him very much.

Mr. LANG: It has been a very great pleasure for me to have had this opportunity.

Mr. GRAY: If Mr. Lang ever becomes tired of dealing with the smaller problems of the north, we would value him quite a bit down here in parliament.

Mr. DINSDALE: I think Mr. Lang is needed in the north.

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): I have one more question to ask Mr. Lang. I wonder if he has any suggestion as to improvements in the ways and means of arrangements for Indians and Eskimos to be employed.

Mr. LANG: What do you mean by ways and means? To create jobs?

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): I mean ways and means for the federal government to employ more Indians and Eskimos in our civil service?

Mr. LANG: One of my pet projects in the delta has been connected with cord wood cutting. I have been bringing that up, but we are running into some difficulty. In the old days when the steam boats and the missions were established at Aklavik, they burnt about 2,000 cords a year, and this provided a lot of work for the Indians. But when the steam boats quit, and when the mission schools were moved to Inuvik, they went into burning oil instead of cord wood. So there were only about 200 cords a year used at Aklavik. This threw a lot of people out of their winter jobs. The situation is this: when you buy a cord of wood at, roughly, \$20 a cord, that is, for 4 foot split cord wood at Aklavik, the \$20 paid goes to the man who cuts it, and he in turn spends it in the country, and this money stays there and helps to build up business and to create a little more confidence and prosperity in the country. But if you buy the equivalent in oil, you pay Imperial Oil Company, and you pay cash. You are not employing anybody and you are not going through Calgary; you are stuck with an Eskimo on relief, and that is the point I want to take in.

When you consider the difference in price between oil and cordwood, you must add the cost of relief, when you burn oil, to the poor Indian or Eskimo as a result of the loss of his job; and you must also consider the moral aspect of it. There is no man on relief who is going to benefit. It is a terrible thing to be on relief. Many of these youngsters are willing to work but just cannot find a job. That is something you cannot measure in dollars and cents.

I have suggested that the power plant at Inuvik switch over to a dual burner that will burn cordwood and oil. We also have a coal mine in the country, and if they use that, they will give some of the natives a job. We can burn coal and oil to the extent that we have unemployed people in the country, and if we are short of that, if we cannot get sufficient, we will switch to oil. That is an idea that is worth considering. We have been considering it for several years, but we have not got any further. I think it is a good, healthy idea. It may cost a little more to burn cordwood, but jobs would be created and the self respect of these people who would be working on it would be saved.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Lang.

Mr. Gall is here to speak to the committee. I wonder if the committee would appreciate having some comments from Mr. Gall before he is questioned? Agreed.

Mr. E. J. GALL (*Elected Member of Northwest Territory Council for Mackenzie Delta*): I will try to keep my remarks brief.

Mr. Chairman, our political evolution in the Northwest Territories has been very, very slow. The reason for this is that the largest part of our population, as you know, has just left a trapping and hunting economy. This is the adult population about which I am talking. Their children at present are in our school system, and possibly when they emerge and graduate from this system they will have different political views.

The balance of our population—and I will name them in order of importance in my view—consist of mining, fishing and civil servant population, plus a group of tradespeople. We can consider the miner, the management and parliament employees who have made their homes in our territories, who have stayed with the mine for a number of years—for its life expectancy—and we will see that they are politically inclined. They give their views and they are interested in the affairs of the territories. The hard-rock miner, as you know, is a very transient worker; he might stay two years, or he might stay one year or six months, and then he moves on. He is interested in his work, but I would not say he is interested in things concerning the territories, and certainly he is not interested in the political attitude. The fisherman is another transient; he comes and goes. The fishing company exists, and naturally he is interested, but the actual work of the fisherman himself is, in its very nature, taking him to southern provinces and back. There are a few local people employed in our lakes, however, and they do have political views.

Then we come to the civil servant. The civil servant is a very intelligent person, but mostly he is a career man. The civil servant comes into our territory, possibly for reasons of experience or to better himself. In some cases he has stayed on, but in other cases it is just a case of passing on. Therefore we are left with a very small core, but they are the true settlers, in my opinion at least. They are the tradespeople, the garage owners, the small-store owners, the small tradesman who has invested his all in our Northwest Territories. This is the man who usually builds up our little towns. I should also include doctors and lawyers, and people in this category contribute to the building of our small towns. They add to the culture and political aspirations. These people are members of our boards of trade and clubs. These people along with the mining companies pay our territorial taxes. You can understand that I cannot speak for the whole of our group, as my confrere has pointed out.

Mr. Chairman, perhaps I can leave this subject and refer to the industry in our area.

The industrial development in our area has not changed since approximately two years following the last war. Any increase in the industry picture has been due to the development of existing industries. The number of wage earners in Yellowknife, and this is an area with which I am familiar, has been reduced. This has been the result of the closing down of mines or the use of modern methods.

The government educational policies are wonderful, and we thank the government for providing the area with facilities which have made possible this rise in educational standards. The cost of education in these communities has been lowered as a result of the efforts on behalf of the government, but this is a one-sided picture. Our industry is not growing. We have a great potential. Our whole area lies within the Pre-Cambrian shield. We know there

is gold and other minerals in the area. The Pine Point mine is being developed, but it is not in production yet.

At the present time we must rely on small groups of people to support our position in the north. Our industry is not growing with our present advance in education, more and more young men and women are becoming involved in the dollar economy. This situation causes much more worry than the political situation.

Mr. Chairman, I should like to refer to this bill at this time. I think we are all agreed that our commissioner should be a resident of the Northwest Territories. We believe that the other elected members should definitely be residents, as well as those commissioners who sit on our committees. If I had any say in this regard I would insist that the commissioner be a resident. I should not like to be a part of a council which, after discussion and deliberation, came to a decision which was turned down in short order by an individual who had not been part of the discussions and deliberations.

I feel that the territory is now sufficiently advanced that residents could be elected to the territory. There are many able men who are residents of this area. These men will not stand for election at the present time because of the positions they now hold. However, as appointed members I believe they would lend their talents. This would be an advantage to the territory because these individuals have a territorial point of view at heart.

Mr. Chairman, I should like at this point to make reference to suggestions put forward by my colleagues. I do not speak for all the citizens of this area, but until we have greater industrial development and a larger number of employed people the territory should not be divided. Perhaps I do not have sufficient knowledge to decide whether or not such a division would be good or bad, or whether it is necessary at this time, but it is my opinion that we must have a greater industrial development with a larger number of wage earners before such a division can economically take place. I do not know whether two governments can live cheaper than one.

Mr. Chairman, at this time I should like to answer any questions that these gentlemen may ask.

In answer to the question asked by the gentleman from Quebec, I should like to state that I am familiar with that area to which you have referred and the circumstances there, and it is my feeling that the Northwest Territories act should remain as it now exists, and the islands should belong to the Northwest Territories.

Mr. GREGOIRE: I was not referring to all the islands, but only those within a three mile limit. Would there be a revolution in the Northwest Territories if my suggestion were adopted?

I would like to ask you this question: would there be a revolution in the Northwest Territories if this three-mile limit were observed?

Mr. GALL: Possibly there would not be a revolution but there would be quite a discussion from this hard core about which I talked because I do not think we wish to concede at present.

Mr. GREGOIRE: I have just one more question: do you think it is normal that all the shore of the province of Quebec between high and low tide should be a part of the Northwest Territories?

Mr. GALL: This is a problem, because I know that there are quite a few navigational difficulties there. I will say what my colleagues say in the law courts: someone else can decide what is high and low water. It is not within my knowledge to answer that question.

Mr. GREGOIRE: There will not be a revolution then, will there?

Mr. GALL: They might possibly shoot me.

Mr. NIELSEN: Could Mr. Gall comment on a particular aspect, which is of considerable concern to me which will result if the bills are adopted by parliament, and that is, upon the splitting of the territories there will naturally have to be a duplication in the federal and in the territorial civil services as the latter develops. There will have to be two forestry departments, two departments of education; there will have to be two departments of health, two departments of welfare, two liquor administrations set up and there will have to be virtually two departments of everything. I wonder if Mr. Gall could say whether this pyramiding of the civil service by reason of the splitting of the territories is necessary for the efficient administration of the territories as they now stand as a whole?

Mr. GALL: No, sir, I did not make that proposal, nor do I say now it would require duplication. I still think our territories can be run from the Slave lake where our industry is at present situated. It can be administered from there. Let the territorial offices be moved from Ottawa to this suitable location. Of course, coming from Yellowknife, I would say Yellowknife should be the location; but this is my view.

Mr. NIELSEN: You feel the capital should be in Yellowknife?

Mr. GALL: This gives you a wrong concept.

Mr. TURNER: Could you describe your constituency on the map?

Mr. GALL: My present constituency, because I do not think I will have another one. Yellowknife is situated here on this map. My constituency runs right up to Coppermine. It takes in the Bathurst Inlet plus Rae and Lac La Martre.

Mr. RHEAUME: Mr. Gall, I take it then that your minimum requirement is we have a resident commissioner in the Northwest Territories immediately, and I understand there is general agreement. You feel a resident commissioner within the Northwest Territories could administer the Northwest Territories—

Mr. GALL: Yes.

Mr. RHEAUME: —from some point within the Northwest Territories just as well as he could if it were divided off and there was a resident commissioner for one side, plus a new commissioner, presumably in Ottawa, which is what the bill suggests.

Mr. GALL: That is correct.

Mr. TURNER: May I ask Mr. Gall a question? I understand your view to be that you feel the bill is premature because the territories are not exactly ready for it.

Mr. GALL: That is correct.

Mr. TURNER: From the point of view of self government in the territories, do you feel that perhaps the division along the lines contemplated by the two bills would allow the western Arctic and Mackenzie to develop more quickly than it is now?

Mr. GALL: This entirely depends on whether you can tell me whether or not we are going to develop up in the pre-Cambrian and around Baker lake. If you could tell me there is no possibility of mines there for the next 20 years, I would agree; but I know and you know that you cannot say this. There might be huge mines in there. Therefore I think it is wrongly split now.

Mr. TURNER: You say you did not represent the entire views even in your own community?

Mr. GALL: Yes.

Mr. TURNER: What type of people share your view; what part of the community?

Mr. GALL: I would say, if I may use the expression, the more intelligent type.

Mr. TURNER: Does the mining community share your view?

Mr. GALL: Yes, some of them; some of them do not. When the commissioner put this out two or three years ago, it was advertised in our local paper. I will admit it might have been sort of blurred, but I went to people whose views I considered would be of help to our commissioner then. I asked all of them, and there was only one. Today these people are raising their voices. It is always thus when the pot begins to boil.

Mr. NIELSEN: Was the editor of your local paper for or against this proposal when it first came out in 1960?

Mr. GALL: You can go back to his articles. He was against it at that time.

Mr. NIELSEN: That is Mr. Horton?

Mr. GALL: Yes.

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): Do you feel that the division of the territories will result in cutting some red tape, or will it increase the red tape?

Mr. GALL: Well, sir, I think this would cut it in two, provided the commissioner of the territory is there; if he is not, it means he is still going back and forth to Ottawa. I am sorry I cannot answer your question. At the present time the individual comes here and then is sent back. This is the situation at the present time.

Mr. LONEY: Mr. Chairman, the members of this committee may or may not know that Mr. Gall has had fairly extensive experience in the central Arctic and the Hudson bay district over a period of many years. Keeping that fact in mind, I should like to ask the following question. Under the proposed division, as shown on the map, the people of Cambridge bay would be given a territorial franchise. At the present time they do not have the right to vote. Under the new proposal they would be given this right. The people at Spence bay would not have this right to vote. Does the suggested boundary as it appears on the map make any sense from your point of view, keeping in mind the people at Cambridge bay, Pelly bay, and Spence bay? Is this proposed boundary a meaningful one?

Mr. GALL: I do not understand the reason for the present boundary proposal. When the boundary proposal was being discussed by council the suggested boundary appeared to follow a path set by a drunken moose. In view of this fact we came to the conclusion that a straight line should be followed.

The people of Spence bay have developed a culture which has been influenced by both the east and west.

Mr. TURNER: Is there a natural division between Spence bay and Cambridge bay?

Mr. GALL: I would not say there is a natural division.

Mr. TURNER: Would you suggest there is a natural division in a cultural and trade sense?

Mr. GALL: I would not suggest there is a natural boundary in a cultural way. Many individuals from Cambridge bay have gone across to Spence bay. Many of the individuals at Spence bay have come from Cape Dorset or from as far away as the other side of Hudson bay.

Mr. TURNER: One could not make a division which would satisfy everyone. Is your proposal a compromise?

Mr. GALL: This is a compromise on the part of the council.

Mr. TURNER: Do you agree with this compromise?

Mr. GALL: Yes.

Mr. LONEY: Is it reasonable to divide the Eskimo people of the central Arctic into the two districts of Nunassiaq and Mackenzie in respect of administration, education and health and welfare?

Mr. GALL: No.

Mr. DINSDALE: Mr. Gall, I take it from your remarks that you believe this bill is a step in the right direction? You are in favour of greater autonomy for the territories and you feel this bill is a step in that direction, is that right? Would you favour the suggestion that the council be partly elected and partly appointed, or would you care to express your point of view in this regard?

Mr. GALL: Mr. Chairman, at this time I should like to be frank. The appointed members to the council have been a great help to me since I became a member of the council. I have never been in the position of opposing an appointed member. Whenever I have opposed members of the council I was opposing elected members. Whenever we had a dispute in regard to procedural matters we always asked for the advice of the appointed members, and they have been very helpful in this regard.

Mr. NIELSEN: If a system could be devised whereby this type of advice was available to the council, would you be in favour of a wholly elected council?

Mr. GALL: Under the conditions as you have described them I possibly would be in favour of a wholly elected council at some time in the future. However, I must point out that during the sessions which take place after council meetings, and I am not aware of what you people in parliament call those sessions, we gain from the wisdom and advice given by these appointed members.

Mr. NIELSEN: Could these individuals serve that same purpose as well in an advisory capacity as they do as members?

Mr. GALL: I cannot answer that question. May I ask you a question?

Mr. NIELSEN: Surely you may ask a question for the purposes of clarification.

Mr. GALL: Are you referring to a situation where I must run to an adviser seeking advice in respect of every point of order? I am thinking in terms of a new member in the council rather than in terms of an experienced member.

If they have to do this all the time, I think this council would be run by our lawyers.

Mr. DINSDALE: I think Mr. Gall suggested in his opening statement that he thought there were local residents qualified to serve as appointed members. I take it he would favour appointed members coming from the north rather than from outside.

Mr. GALL: Yes. There has been criticism levelled at this council for appointed members coming from outside. They were able and capable, but just because they were not residents, this criticism has been levelled at our council. I think we have evolved enough now that we can have appointed members because, as I mentioned, some of the people I know would not care, because of business and other things, to stand the pressure of elections.

Mr. DINSDALE: One more point: in 1962 the residents of the eastern Arctic were given the federal franchise. This presented an anomaly in that they had the federal franchise but they did not have the territorial franchise. There had

been agitation for the franchise over several years from the eastern Arctic. Do you think that this has altered your attitude on the proposed division? I mean by this, it has been suggested from time to time that since the residents of the east received the federal franchise, they should have been consulted through the territorial branch on this subject before this division went ahead. Has that changed your opinion at all?

Mr. GALL: No, because at that time I think I mentioned in council that the vote could be given to them at the commencement, and that was one of the important things. I think it was taken out of our hands entirely when the federal people gave them the vote.

Mr. DINSDALE: I mean they have not been represented in the territory as elected members.

Mr. GALL: No.

Mr. DINSDALE: You say that they should have this?

Mr. GALL: This was one of the proposals, and at that time we considered at first we would go ahead territorially, but they did not have a vote federally then. We thought we would go ahead with the territorial vote and in the first year try to bring them into our voting system.

Mr. RHEAUME: On this very point, Mr. Chairman, I would ask Mr. Gall if he would be in favour of the retention of the Northwest Territories council under the existing legislation, with the exception that residents of the eastern Arctic be given territorial franchise and councillors on the existing council as a first step, prior to division? Do you see that as the sensible evolution?

Mr. GALL: This has to follow.

Mr. RHEAUME: In other words, do you see it necessary to divide before you give the people in the eastern Arctic the right to vote?

Mr. GALL: This is the point.

Mr. TURNER: Do I gather from what you have said that, aside from the fact that you think a division is premature, if you were to be outvoted on that matter—as I gather you were—the other terms of the bill are generally satisfactory to you, on the basis that it is going to be passed?

Mr. GALL: It is a duplication, sir. I know I have been advised by my friends in council that there will be no more expense involved, but as a man who runs a business I cannot follow this. I think the expense would be doubled.

Mr. RHEAUME: At the time this question was under consideration, was the territorial council presented with any detailed reports, not only of the increased territorial cost but of the increased federal costs as a basis for your deliberations? Did you have documents showing what the increased costs would be both territorially and federally, or was it just federally?

Mr. GALL: No, there were no documents at the time. There were documents to show what the situation would be if this division went through. We have the different splits showing the situation as it would be if this were to be passed.

Mr. GREGOIRE: As the time for adjournment has arrived I would like to propose that this committee invite the ministers of national resources from the provinces of Ontario and Quebec, or their representatives, to appear before this committee to give their opinions on the question of the frontiers of Ontario and the province of Quebec.

Mr. GREGOIRE: I so move.

The CHAIRMAN: Have you a seconder, Mr. Gregoire?

Mr. GREGOIRE: Yes, Mr. Asselin.

Mr. ASSELIN (*Richmond-Wolfe*): I will second the motion, Mr. Chairman, only on the understanding that it is unanimous by the committee. I second it if this is to help this bill.

Mr. GREGOIRE: We can have it again tomorrow.

Mr. NIELSEN: On a point of order, I do not think motions require seconders in committee.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, they do.

Mr. FLEMING (*Okanagan-Revelstoke*): I will second it without condition.

The CHAIRMAN: It is moved by Mr. Gregoire and seconded by Mr. Fleming (*Okanagan-Revelstoke*):

The CHAIRMAN: You would add after "Ontario" "the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources". I would say at this time of day that I would like to be able to inform the committee as to the propriety of this motion. In what way the limits of the Northwest Territories have been conceived and suggested by Mr. Gregoire is a matter to be studied in the discussion of the bill.

Mr. NIELSEN: I will have to move an amendment to that to add the resources ministers of the provinces mentioned "the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources" because there must be someone here in view of this turn of events to represent the federal side of things.

Mr. RHEAUME: I will second that.

Mr. TURNER: On that particular point, would Mr. Gregoire allow us to complete the testimony of these gentlemen? Then perhaps in the steering committee we could talk about this particular issue and bring it up at a future meeting.

The CHAIRMAN: We know the circumstances under which we are operating. We would like to hear these gentlemen and not delay them in Ottawa for too long a time. It is now 6 o'clock. What is the wish of the committee so far as the next sitting is concerned.

Mr. NIELSEN: Perhaps Mr. Gregoire would allow his motion to stand.

Mr. GREGOIRE: Until when?

The CHAIRMAN: Until we have these gentlemen. Could it not wait? These gentlemen apparently want to inform us and once we have finished with these councillors we will entertain your motion.

Mr. GREGOIRE: That is all right.

Mr. TURNER: And entertain arguments about it.

Mr. RHEAUME: We are a legally constituted body. Can we give these gentlemen expenses to cover the time they have spent here and any subsequent delays? I move that we do so.

The CHAIRMAN: We should ask them if they feel there are additional expenses.

Mr. NIELSEN: I would like to move that the four councillors of the Northwest Territories council who are with us today be paid their expenses in accordance with the practice of such committees, commencing from yesterday and continuing until the committee has finished questioning them.

Mr. RHEAUME: I second the motion.

Mr. TURNER: That is the standard per diem?

Mr. RHEAUME: Whatever the practice might be.

The CHAIRMAN: I am afraid the Chair is not too enlightened on the procedure for expenses. We will meet again before these gentlemen leave, and in the meantime I will have taken advice on your suggestion. I did not know that it was a true motion.

Mr. NIELSEN: Yes, it is a motion, and it was seconded by Mr. Rheaume.

The CHAIRMAN: I will be pleased to inquire about the practice and I will inform the committee of the result at the opening of the next sitting.

Mr. NIELSEN: I would be against resuming tonight because the privileges and elections committee commences at 8 o'clock this evening. Tomorrow we have caucus. Therefore I suggest we meet from 9 o'clock tomorrow morning until 11 o'clock.

The CHAIRMAN: We will meet at 9 o'clock tomorrow for one hour and forty-five minutes.

Mr. GRAY: In view of the importance of this matter to the gentlemen who are present, would it not be possible for them to extend their stay in Ottawa?

Mr. NIELSEN: We have had since last July to set up this committee, and there have been all sorts of urgings for it to be done before this late date. We are now getting pressures from privileges and elections, which is meeting every day this week. I have not been in the house today except for questions. I attended privileges and elections committee this morning at 9 o'clock and it lasted for three hours, and we meet again at 8 o'clock this evening. There are also house duties which have to be performed.

Mr. TURNER: I appreciate what he is saying. The pressure does not stem from any dates in respect of the house schedule; if there is a pressure it is a pressure to try to oblige four men who are hoping to get home as soon as possible.

The CHAIRMAN: That is true. Our obligation is to try to fit the schedule to their needs. I cannot recall any session where there were not certain accumulations of meetings.

Mr. GRAY: Of course, Mr. Chairman, we do not know how long it will take to hear the presentations of the two members who are here and, of course, Mr. Gall will have some other remarks to make. We would not want to limit them unduly as it would not be fair to them.

The CHAIRMAN: Well, it is 8 o'clock tonight or 9 o'clock in the morning. I believe the committee as a whole could decide on that.

Mr. GRAY: I think we should make some effort to accommodate those people who live a long way from here.

Mr. GALL: Mr. Chairman, other members of the council have informed me that our plane out from Edmonton is booked full, so we could then stay another day.

The CHAIRMAN: That is what I gathered in the conversations we had prior to the meeting.

Let us make it at 9 o'clock tomorrow morning until 10.45.

Mr. RHEAUME: Mr. Chairman, could you clear up a technical point in respect of the expenses, the point being that if you stick by the book, these gentlemen were not, in fact, summoned and there is no provision to pay their expenses.

In fairness to these gentlemen and in taking into consideration the hardships they have gone through, I think this committee could be its own master in this respect and say that we summoned them as of yesterday.

Mr. TURNER: Would the chairman enlighten the committee in respect of the standard per diem rate and then we would know whether we were going by the book.

Mr. RHEAUME: You cannot grant a per diem rate to someone who has not been summoned. It is my opinion the committee could say, in effect, we summoned these gentlemen as of yesterday.

The CHAIRMAN: If it is illegal in any way I will find out and let you know. There is nothing wrong in passing a motion in order that they may be compensated for their time and expenses.

Mr. TURNER: We are all in favour of that. Mr. Chairman, would you advise the committee what the procedure is.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, I will find out.

There is a motion before us which reads as follows: moved by Mr. Nielsen, seconded by Mr. Rheaume that the usual expenses be paid to the four members of the territorial council of the Northwest Territories from November 25 and during the time they are required to appear before the committee.

The meeting is adjourned.

EVIDENCE

WEDNESDAY, November 27, 1963.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen of the committee, I believe we have to close our meeting no later than a quarter to eleven, so we should start now since we do have a quorum.

Before we continue the interrogation of the witnesses, I believe I should say a word about the matter of expenses. The required forms have now been filled out and signed. The witnesses have been furnished with the required forms under the committee's procedure for allowance of living expenses.

The motion of Mr. Nielsen, seconded by Mr. Rhéaume, referred to usual expenses. I think it would be in order to make a slight amendment to indicate that usual living expenses should be covered. The forms do provide for transportation. If the committee is agreeable to add "the usual living expenses from November 25", I believe the only addition then necessary is that of the names of the witnesses.

Is the committee in favour of this slight amendment?

Agreed.

Mr. RHEAUME: Before we go further with the proceedings, may I suggest that the committee be not only provided with maps such as the one on the wall, showing the proposed changes in constituencies within the Mackenzie territory and Nunassiat, but also with similar maps showing the existing situation in the Northwest Territories to facilitate our references to what is occurring in terms of constituency boundaries as they now exist. It is important for the committee to have that information.

The CHAIRMAN: I do not know if we need a motion for that. I would suggest also that a copy of this map should be attached as an appendix to the minutes of this committee.

Mr. RHEAUME: I move.

Mr. MITCHELL: I second the motion.

The CHAIRMAN: It is moved by Mr. Rhéaume, seconded by Mr. Mitchell, that a copy of the map used in the testimony of the witnesses of the Northwest Territories council be printed as an appendix to the proceedings of the committee of mines, forests and waters, showing the present distribution of the electoral districts of the Northwest Territories.

Motion agreed to.

I believe we should require that the person doing this work show, perhaps in a different colour, the electoral districts as they now exist. Could that be done?

Mr. RHEAUME: It would be much less confusing for committee members to have two maps.

The CHAIRMAN: The person who drew this map can draw another one indicating the situation as it is now. This is a matter of cost. Maybe we should have a motion to the effect that we want to have two maps.

Is it agreed that there should be not only a map such as that used here, showing the forthcoming divisions suggested by the bills, but also a map showing the existing divisions?

Agreed.

Mr. TURNER: I will undertake to provide the maps.

The CHAIRMAN: Is there anything else to be brought up before we proceed with the testimony?

I will recall Mr. Gall, and I trust that hon. members recall the stage we had reached upon adjournment last evening so we may proceed without too much delay.

Mr. RHEAUME: Mr. Chairman, when Mr. Gall was giving his evidence yesterday, he made the statement that the feelings and opinions he was expressing were his own as a councillor and that they also represented some of the opinions of the people in his community. Can Mr. Gall tell the committee whether or not the mayor and council of the municipal district of Yellowknife made any formal and official statement to him of their opinion on this matter?

Mr. GALL: Apart from their statement in connection with the location of the capital, as a body, the municipal council has made no official statement.

Mr. RHEAUME: Am I then to understand that they have made an official statement to you in relation to the capital to present to this committee.

Mr. GALL: Not to present to the committee, no. I did not know it was going to come up to the committee. Previously, however, this was done in our council.

Mr. RHEAUME: Are you aware that in January and February last year the mayor and council of the district of Yellowknife were petitioning the then government to hold a special committee here to allow them to present their case?

Mr. GALL: Yes, I understand that.

Mr. RHEAUME: To your knowledge, is that still the wish of the mayor and council? Do they still wish to have an opportunity to be heard?

Mr. GALL: I think so, regarding the capital. As far as I know, this still stands.

Mr. TURNER: Mr. Chairman, do I take it from Mr. Gall's answer that the main objection, if there is one, of the mayor and council of Yellowknife is to the choice of capital?

Mr. GALL: As a body, yes; individually, I would say no.

Mr. TURNER: As a body, is it the choice of capital that worries them?

Mr. GALL: Yes.

Mr. TURNER: They would have preferred Yellowknife to Fort Smith?

Mr. GALL: This is their opinion.

Mr. RHEAUME: To your knowledge, are there councillors who also have other objections than exclusively to location of the capital? Are there councillors who wish to present matters to the committee other than the location of the capital? We know, certainly, that is the topic about which the mayor and council would be talking to the committee.

Mr. GALL: As individuals?

Mr. RHEAUME: As individuals.

Mr. GALL: One or two of them, yes. The others do not seem to have anything particular to say. However, what they have been saying since I have left, if they have heard about this committee, may be little different.

Mr. NIELSEN: Do you feel, Mr. Gall, that the legislative powers of the new council, assuming the territories are divided, should include the power, on behalf of members of the council, to introduce money bills?

Mr. GALL: This question I would say, from my experience in the present council, is a difficult question to answer, and probably it will be difficult for the

new councillors who will come in with the election. Most of them are not trained in these matters. They have always depended on our appointed people and the administration itself to explain such matters to them. This is my frank opinion.

Mr. NIELSEN: Assume the commissioner retained the power to disallow any legislation, would you then be in favour of the individual members of council having the power to introduce money bills?

Mr. GALL: Yes, in this case.

Mr. NIELSEN: Are you in favour of a three-year or a four-year term for elected council members?

Mr. GALL: After this point was brought up yesterday it struck me that there is a great deal of unfinished business. If one does not get two terms, then three years might be too short; I do not know. In my opinion four years would be best.

Mr. NIELSEN: At the moment the Northwest Territories council has the power to legislate with respect to controverted elections only. In Yukon, the legislative power extends to legislating with respect to elections and conduct of elections, and so on. Do you feel that the two new councils, assuming division goes ahead, should have the power to legislate with regard to elections as well as controverted elections?

Mr. GALL: I follow you so far, sir, I am thinking now of Nunassiat. How do you explain this to your council there; is it too new to introduce this yet; or if it is not too new and the individual can be protected, then I am in favour of it. If there is anything there which can be controversial, I would not care to make a statement.

Mr. NIELSEN: How about the Mackenzie territory?

Mr. GALL: The southern part or the northern part? I would not care to make a statement. Bathurst, Cambridge bay, and these other places have not had any dealings in a legislative capacity.

Mr. NIELSEN: May I draw your recollection to my questioning of Mr. Lang yesterday concerning the administration of justice in the existing Northwest Territories. Do you feel, given a sufficiently expanded judiciary in the Northwest Territories, that one system would be better than two, or vice versa.

Mr. GALL: No; definitely one from my point of view, knowing the natives and Eskimos as I do.

Mr. NIELSEN: Do you feel that power should be given to the territorial court and the judges thereof to sit outside either one of the territories, should they be created?

Mr. GALL: Do you mean on this point that in respect of territorial matters they will sit outside?

Mr. NIELSEN: That power is included in the new bills; that is, the power to sit outside the territories.

Mr. GALL: On territorial matters?

Mr. NIELSEN: On any matters which come before the court.

Mr. GALL: I am afraid I may be a little ignorant. May I have advice?

The CHAIRMAN: You can state you do not know the problem.

Mr. GALL: I do not know.

Mr. RHEAUME: The new Bill C-83, in respect of the council of the Mackenzie territory, and new Bill C-84, in respect of the council of the Nunassiat territory, contain clauses stating how many councillors there shall be. Considering the proposed Mackenzie territory for the moment, the bill says there shall be nine councillors. Are you in agreement with the number of nine, or do you have

anything to say about the number of councillors to be provided for that new territory if or when it is created.

Mr. GALL: Well, so far as I am concerned, the number nine seems to be a suitable number when we are around a table. We are not too large; we are not too small; we get a good expression of opinion. I can see nothing wrong with nine.

Mr. RHEAUME: At the time these proposals were under discussion by the territorial council, do you recall whether there was a great deal of discussion in this area; in other words, was there a great deal of mulling over and examination into whether or not the councillors should be elected and appointed, and what number of councillors there should be on both these councils; was it a bone of contention?

Mr. GALL: There was no bone of contention here, because I think all the elected members were of the opinion there is value in the aid we receive from the appointed people. Later on in this political evolution we will have to go in more for elected people. We agreed that until we could have a full elected council, we would go at this one at a time and the next council would decide it was time to bring in another one.

Mr. RHEAUME: I will pose the same question to Mr. Gall which I posed to Mr. Lang. With a background of information, assuming that every legislative assembly in Canada requires expert advice, but in no other body except the territorial council are advisers allowed to vote, and assuming the same advice and expert procedural opinion were available to the council of the Northwest Territories, would you be opposed to having that council consist only of the people elected and answerable in the north if an arrangement was made to see that they have procedural advice the same as we have in another place?

Mr. GALL: Frankly I would not like to see our council become like the Yukon territory council at present. However, I think the appointed people tend to make us aware of the realities rather than the little parochial issues out of which the elected people tend to make long standing issues, and from which we would accomplish nothing. I know eventually the council will have to be fully elected; but at the present time I still think we require the wisdom of the appointed members, provided they are appointed for this reason. I know we can receive this advice from outsiders, probably from officials of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources and outside law people who come and sit with our council; but is there the same interest there; does this become a monetary interest or a departmental issue?

Mr. RHEAUME: Without allowing me to put words in your mouth, if I understand your statement correctly you are in favour of retaining some appointed councillors. However, in your statement yesterday I understood you to say you feel the time has come when we must have appointments which include residents of the Northwest Territories.

Mr. GALL: Yes. One or two can be appointed from our territory now.

Mr. RHEAUME: Under the proposed new territory of Nunassiat, in respect of the seven man council, it is proposed that two councillors be elected from two constituencies. On the map, which is exhibited for the benefit of members of the committee, you will notice that, while there is provision for people at Cambridge bay to vote for a territorial council, with the new constituency of the central Arctic, there is no proposal to give the territorial enfranchisement to people at Spence bay. From your many years of knowledge and experience of the central Arctic and the people of that area, and being aware of how they travel back and forth, can you see any valid reason why the people of Spence bay should not have a territorial franchise under any new

set up; whereas the people of Cambridge bay would have this franchise? Does this make sense to you?

Mr. GALL: No, this is wrong.

Mr. RHEAUME: I should like to ask one other question, Mr. Gall. Yesterday a statement was made during the discussions of this committee that the providing of more jobs and more employment opportunities in the north for youngsters graduating from our schools can be best done through the existence of a territorial civil service or a local civil service, which could make certain allowances that the federal government cannot. Mr. Lang gave us information in this connection indicating how he felt employment opportunities could be provided at this time under the existing set-up. I wonder whether you would make any statement to this committee about the importance of providing at this time under the present set-up more job opportunities for our local graduates? Have you any statement to make in this regard?

Mr. GALL: I believe strongly in the provision of employment opportunities for our residents. I refer to residents as a whole because in the north we do not consider the peoples as ethnic groups.

Our school system is just now hitting its stride. I believe next year, or perhaps the year following, we will have our own educated residents required to fill a territorial civil service. I believe these people will fit into a civil service because they will not be lured to the south, but will stay with their jobs. I think it would be advantageous at this time to go ahead and implement this system.

Mr. RHEAUME: At the time this situation was under discussion by the council was there any suggestion when the territorial government would in fact establish its own civil service?

Mr. GALL: There was no suggestion that this plan be adopted at a specific time. It was suggested that this would perhaps be established under the new territorial set-up. Certainly the establishment of a local service was one of the considerations of the council.

Mr. RHEAUME: Do you recall any suggestion, to be found in the papers that were prepared by the council on the subject of progression, when the contemplated Mackenzie territory would be in a position in fact to hire its own civil service, completely apart from the present local administration of today?

Mr. GALL: I am sorry I cannot give you any point in time in this regard. We had a broad discussion on this subject and there was the recommendation that this should be something to attain in the future.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any other questions of Mr. Gall?

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): Mr. Chairman, I should like to ask one or two questions.

Mr. Gall, yesterday you mentioned that the native peoples in the Northwest Territories were emerging from this trapping and hunting economy, and you mentioned also that the major industry in the north at the moment is mining. Is that correct?

Mr. GALL: Yes.

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): I was wondering what opportunities are being made available in mining to the native peoples of that area.

Mr. GALL: At our Sir John Franklin school students receive full instruction, not as miners, but perhaps as apprentice miners. During this past summer the students were taken into exploration parties. I am a member of a com-

mittee that is very interested in this subject, and we receive reports from the placement officers. I am quite happy to be able to report that these students all did very well on the job.

Mine management at one time up in the north, through a sad experience, did not get local Indians or Eskimos to work very satisfactorily in the mines. They were not interested in working to provide a living, but for the pay cheque and the social aspects, or to have their families moved into the populated areas.

The people involved in mining in the Northwest Territories are aware of this problem at this time. I have received reports in this regard during the last two years. The unions are coming into being in these areas and these individuals now work in the same way as anyone else. Some of these natives are very good workers.

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): From your recent experience and observation, are job opportunities opening up to the natives?

Mr. GALL: Yes, definitely.

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): You have made some reference to fishing. Were you referring to commercial fishing?

Mr. GALL: Yes, we have a commercial fishing industry. These individuals sell their fish to the fish companies through the department of Indian affairs. We would like to see some group establish their own businesses, but our administration is trying in every way possible to work in conjunction with business in this regard.

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): Within the last few years has the civil service in the north made any attempt in this regard?

Mr. GALL: Yes, the department of northern affairs definitely use the natives, Metis and Eskimos in all outdoor work possible at all times.

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): Thank you.

Mr. GALL: May I continue, Mr. Chairman?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes.

Mr. GALL: I should like to stress one thing, Mr. Chairman, and perhaps I am out of order in doing so. I would like to see the establishment of more mining companies in the north. I think more can be done by the federal parliament than by anyone else in regard to developing our country. I would like to see the establishment of more roads. I would like to see a road from Fort Nelson down to Simpson and from Simpson on around our lake. I would like to see this road extended. This could create more tourism. This type of development is more important to our young students than any type of political implication. We must provide work for these young men and women.

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): Perhaps I should have checked these figures myself, but could you tell me the Indian population in the Northwest Territories, and the Eskimo population? I understand the Indian population is approximately 3,500, and I got these figures from dominion statistics.

Mr. TURNER: Mr. Chairman, I think I can give the up-to-date figures in this regard if I may. In the two contemplated territories the populations are as follows. In the Mackenzie territory the population is 16,000 of whom 5,500 are Indians, 3,300 are Eskimos and 7,200 are whites. In the contemplated Nunassiat area the population is approximately 7,250 of whom 5,500 are Eskimos and the other 1,700 or 1,500 are whites, there being virtually no Indians in that area.

Mr. RHEAUME: Mr. Chairman, before we go further with our discussions in regard to the establishment of these new territories I think we should call this contemplated area Nunassiaq. I agree, it is a tongue twister.

Mr. TURNER: I have heard the Eskimos themselves use three different inflections in pronouncing that word.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions?

Mr. GALL: Mr. Chairman, in respect of this population question I should like to state that the 1,700 whites in the Nunassiaq area are mostly federal civil servants.

Mr. TURNER: You refer to the 1,700 in the Nunassiaq territory?

Mr. GALL: Yes.

Mr. RHEAUME: I should like to ask one further question. A great deal of opinion has been presented to the committee in respect of the differences between the western side of the north and the eastern side of the north. From your knowledge of both sides in respect of employment and cultural problems in the Northwest Territories do you feel there is any great difference between the problems and the people? In respect of the people of let us say Fort Providence and those of Baker lake, do you feel there is a greater similarity than difference?

Mr. GALL: Let me go back. This is in the early thirties. Believe it or not I was converted to Christianity by a man who came from Cape Dorset who is now in King William. He was an Eskimo attached to one of the churches down there. Later on that year we had a native travelling minister with the same views. There was culture coming from the east, culture coming from the west. Does this answer your question?

Mr. RHEAUME: Are there as many similarities in the problems in the west and the east as there are differences? We have tended to emphasize the differences in this committee between the east and the west. My question is whether there are not a great number of similarities between the local people in the west and the local people in the east.

Mr. GALL: The problem is to get them employed. Once we have mines and once we have industry, whether it is in the east or in the west, the problem would be much simpler. These people have proved themselves to be miners, even the people who were not educated in our schools. Rankin Inlet is a good example of this. These people can be employed provided we get them employment in mines or in whatever endeavour you wish to mention.

Mr. RHEAUME: I have one other question, Mr. Chairman. As you are aware, Mr. Gall, the distant early warning line with airports every 50 miles runs across the northern mainland. In one of the islands it is gradually being phased out. Do you see an alternative in an important east-west communication and transportation system being made available to the Canadian north at the point at which these places lose their military value? Could the DEW line be a good east-west line of communication and travel?

Mr. GALL: I understand your question, sir, but I would definitely not like to see these places become vacant or abandoned. Surely some of these places could be utilized. Unless we give those people suitable work and gainful employment—not welfare employment—I am afraid I would have to leave that question unanswered.

Mr. RHEAUME: I will put it in another way. We tend to talk about the Canadian north and its problems of communication and transportation on the north to south line. We are emphasizing that we are going north out of Montreal to Frobisher bay, north out of Churchill to Keewatin and north out of Edmonton to the Mackenzie district. With the distant early warning line pro-

viding the telecommunication and transportation link, is this not an equally usable east-west link across the Canadian north?

Mr. GALL: Yes, this is definitely the base of our argument. This would not be splitting our territories. This was one of the points brought up by other members. You have to go to Ottawa and to Montreal to get to the eastern Arctic. We can travel through our own territories now. We have communication the same as you have here. We have airports. What you say is absolutely suitable for this.

Mr. TURNER: Is it economic?

Mr. GALL: That I would leave to you. You know more about that than I do.

Mr. TURNER: What is your view?

Mr. GALL: I know that it is not economical because we cannot afford to keep an airport for one plane a week; it is ridiculous.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions?

Mr. NIELSEN: I have one further question on the courts and the judicial system in the Northwest Territories as it exists now. As it is now, Mr. Gall, the superior courts of the provinces of Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland, may, within those provinces, sit on civil cases arising in the Northwest Territories. Do you think that is a good thing?

Mr. GALL: I know this question. I am not too well versed on this subject.

Mr. NIELSEN: If you had a civil case of your own that you wanted to try, would you prefer to have it tried within the Northwest Territories by the territorial court or by one of the courts of these provinces?

Mr. GALL: As an old resident of the Northwest Territories I was very glad when our territorial court came into being. Previous to this it was expensive to all who had to go south to Edmonton with their cases. Therefore, in all fairness, I would prefer to see our cases tried by our own territorial court.

Mr. NIELSEN: I have one last question: do you agree with the principle that the commissioner should have a vote on the territorial council?

Mr. GALL: Here again we are gradually climbing up the political ladder. The mayor is entitled to break a vote in a municipality. I think that with such a nine-man council you could not very well ask the commissioner not to vote because the vote could be deadlocked. I think this should be retained because I have seen it exercised in the Yellowknife municipal council. The mayor's vote broke a deadlock. I think this should be retained in our council.

Mr. NIELSEN: Do you feel the commissioner should only have a vote in the case of a tie?

Mr. GALL: Yes. I have never been in the council when the commission was voting because this has never arisen in our council.

Mr. NIELSEN: I have one last question, Mr. Chairman. Do you feel that the present indemnities paid to elected members of council are adequate?

Mr. GALL: I cannot answer this in all fairness because, as you know, I am employed by the Hudson Bay Company. These are the gentlemen who come from the trap lines. They can speak for themselves as they are small businessmen. The time which they spend in this meeting is very valuable time for them. I know that this is what they think is the case in their territory. However, I would like to leave this question unanswered because I cannot really speak on this. I believe that if you did raise the remuneration this would give the small businessmen an opportunity to make a career, and then again it might not. It is a hard question for me to answer.

Mr. GRAY: Mr. Chairman, if I may go back to another matter that the witness was enlightening us on, I should like to ask this question. Mr. Gall, are there cultural differences between the Eskimos of the eastern Arctic and the western Arctic? I am not referring to influences brought from the outside, but as far as their own culture is concerned are there differences between them?

Mr. GALL: People in Point Barrow in Alaska have the same dialect as people from Fort Simpson, while the central Eskimos have different cultures that do not compare from east to west. The people around the delta of the Mackenzie river are not true Eskimos because they are so intermingled with the whites. The whalers, people from Nunatanian delta and inhabiting inland Alaska since the time of the gold rush, are all of different cultures. In the eastern Arctic again they had association with the white whaler for a great number of years because those people were in contact with the central Arctic. People from the Arctic are the people I know best. They were the last ones to have contact with the white man, people from the King William land and around there. The man from Cape Dorset is in every way less cultured than the man from Spence bay.

Mr. GRAY: My question was not whether they were less or more cultured but I gather from your answer that because of historical tendencies, because of accidents of history, certain cultural differences have developed over the years. I am not referring to the Eskimos in one area being necessarily more advanced than in another but because of the influences you mentioned, the differences you mentioned, that would be noticeable to the observer or to the student.

Mr. GALL: Where you get big sea mammals you find the culture of the people more advanced than say inland where they spend all their time hunting. The people who feed on large sea mammals have more time for culture. These people live on both sides of North America, in Alaska and on the Atlantic coast.

Mr. GRAY: What about the Eskimos of the eastern Arctic, and the Indians you have around the delta for example? I suppose there would be considerable difference there, with different kinds of people. Is that not so?

Mr. GALL: Oh yes, but I do not want to talk about the Eskimos around the delta because their member is here. This man has been associated with them. I do not think there is a true strain now. There might be, but I do not think there is a true strain now. I believe it is a melting pot.

Mr. GRAY: You do not have that sort of situation in the eastern Arctic?

Mr. GALL: No, there you have more of a true strain, until you get into contacts, let us say, at Chimo.

Mr. RHEAUME: It is not a question of whether there are differences, but whether the proposed boundaries would split up similar peoples. Certainly there are differences, as you would surely agree, between certain groups, let us say, at Baker lake and groups on the Mackenzie river. But does this proposed boundary make sense in terms of separating two distinct groups, or, in effect, is the central Arctic a highway for people moving back and forth over her borders? Does that make any sense?

Mr. GALL: Do you mean this Nunassiaq?

Mr. RHEAUME: Yes, I mean the Nunassiaq border.

Mr. GALL: Well, outside of what you mention, between Spence bay, Cambridge bay, and Perry river, these people move back and forth over this line continually. But that would be the only point.

Mr. TURNER: Otherwise the border is a fair compromise?

Mr. GALL: Yes.

Mr. LONEY: I would like to know whether there have ever been any native people on any of the councils in the Northwest Territories?

Mr. GALL: No.

Mr. LONEY: Do you think this is likely to happen fairly soon?

Mr. GALL: This is one of the things I would like to see. I would like to see some of our young men come back as doctors and professional men. This is part of our hope, and when I say our, I mean those in northern affairs as well as ourselves. That is what we wish to see.

Mr. LONEY: What have you to say about education of native peoples in the Northwest Territories at the moment? Are they being taught their own language at any level of schooling? Are they being taught in their own language at any level?

Mr. GALL: I cannot answer because I am not interested. If I had been interested I would perhaps have informed myself. I do not know at Yellowknife the main aim in the schools is to get them coming along so that they can take their places in our economy.

Mr. FLEMING (*Okanagan-Revelstoke*): Dealing in general terms rather than with particular divisions, the objectives of your council are to secure a greater degree of local economy in the territory. At the present time the council which has been responsible for the whole territory consisted of four elected members. But in the division into Mackenzie territory you would have four elected members or rather five elected members and four appointed, so your degree of local autonomy grows.

But as far as Nunassiat is concerned, the council would have two elected and five appointed members, with their administration centre in Ottawa. Do you feel so far as Nunassiat is concerned that this is an advance, or a regressive step? Is there an advance by retaining administration in Ottawa with five appointed members and only two elected members? Do you consider this an advance in that part of the territory?

Mr. GALL: I would say it is definitely an advance because these people, through no fault of their own, do not know, or are not acquainted with our political process. And I am definitely in favour at the beginning of going slow.

Mr. FLEMING (*Okanagan-Revelstoke*): You do not feel that this is going too slow?

Mr. GALL: No, provided that they appoint people of the same type that have been appointed to our Northwest council today. I think it might be done, because these would be educated people who would have a perspective in the matter. As to these people, again I go back mostly to civil servants. There are neither mines nor industry there, but we hope there will be some come in. However at the present time you are dealing entirely with native peoples, Eskimo peoples, and it does not take them very long to choose and to know what they want. If you went further than that now, I believe you would have a little chaos.

Mr. FLEMING (*Okanagan-Revelstoke*): What would be your objection to, or your reason for not extending the franchise to the whole of the Nunassiat territory instead of only to a portion of it?

Mr. GALL: That is something I do not know. I understand that Spence bay came under the Nunassiat regime. I thought that was part of the plan. But this is something possibly I did not get at the time they discussed it.

Mr. RHEAUME: According to the map the two proposed constituencies in Nunassiat centre around Baker lake, the Rankin Inlet area, Frobisher, and

the Pangnirtung coast. So the people around Spence bay would not have the vote. I am trying to put Mr. Fleming's question in a northern perspective, and it is my question too. Is there any reason why as we move towards development in government we should not give everyone in the Arctic the territorial vote?

Mr. GALL: That is right.

Mr. FLEMING (*Okanagan-Revelstoke*): There is no reason in your view why it should not be extended now?

Mr. GALL: No.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions? If not, I thank Mr. Gall. He has been most kind. Now I call on Mr. Kaeser.

Mr. TURNER: Before the next witness is heard, might I note for the record that there is a group of young men and women here who are young career officers in the department of northern affairs, undergoing their one year of apprenticeship. It was decided by the department that it would be a good idea to expose them to the democratic process. The department is not trying to pack the committee, but is just trying to impart education to some of the young men and women who are trying to make the north their career.

The CHAIRMAN: I am very pleased to learn that we have these young ladies and gentlemen with us. I am sure they will appreciate the evidence we are now receiving from the delegates from the Northwest Territories.

Mr. GRAY: I hope they will consider returning to this committee during the more difficult parts of our work with the department.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kaeser is a member of the council of the Northwest Territories. The committee is now free to question him, unless he first of all would like to make a statement.

Mr. P. W. KAESER (*An Elected Member of the Northwest Territorial Council*): Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I have been an elected member only since last year. I fully agree with and endorse the splitting of the Northwest Territories into Mackenzie and Nunassiat. I am also in full agreement with the policy laid down by the Northwest territorial council. I have nothing further to add. If you wish, however, I could tell you something about my own constituency. Otherwise I am ready to answer your questions.

The CHAIRMAN: Well, have you any problem concerning the bills changing the territory? Are there any problems in your constituency which might arise for that reason?

In respect of these bills, Mr. Kaeser, are there any problems which may affect you and with which you are concerned?

Mr. KAESER: Mr. Chairman, if you wish, I could give a brief rundown of my constituency.

The CHAIRMAN: Would you do so inasmuch as it pertains to these changes?

Mr. KAESER: No, Mr. Chairman, there is not too much in that regard.

Mr. TURNER: Mr. Kaeser, we have a map of the existing constituency; would you go to the map and describe your own particular territory?

Mr. KAESER: I represent what is called the south of the Mackenzie, which includes Fort Smith and what will be Pine Point mine as soon as there is a mine there. We hope to have this mine in operation by 1965 or 1966.

My constituency also takes in Hay river which is located under Great Slave lake. The people in this area are engaged in mostly trapping and fishing. Then it goes over to Fort Resolution, where mostly fishing and trapping are carried on; and then over to a small settlement of 60 Indians at Snowdrift, over on the east arm of the lake. The people in this area also are engaged in fishing.

And, that is it, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. RHEAUME: I am interested in pursuing the question of increased employment, particularly for our graduates from our schools and whether or not this could come about under the existing set-up.

I know that all the councillors are hoping that any new changeover will result in added employment. Have you anything to say in respect of what we might do here and now in your area under the existing set-up, if it were not changed. Is there a way we could add to the employment opportunities in your area of the north?

Mr. KAESER: Yes. As you know, we have the mine coming along at Pine Point. This mine will obtain its power 34 miles northeast of Fort Smith. A hydro power plant will be erected at this location and should be in operation within the next couple of months. This will be a great help to the economy of this area and will have the result of providing labour opportunities to the people of the territories. Naturally, we ourselves are trying to encourage employment in the Northwest Territories. We have a plan whereby we are trying to improve fishing and such natural resources as trapping. We are investigating the possibility of making use of our lumber in that area.

We have a very large area there which is suitable for farming. After the buffalo are turned back into the park we hope to be able to use that land north of Fort Smith for the grazing of cattle. I am sure there will be a great number of cattle ranches in that area.

As was mentioned, there is a depressed area in the Fort Resolution area and the people there are dependent mostly on welfare. There is a plan going forward to get help from the government; in fact, this matter will be brought up at the next territorial council meeting. We are exploring all the potentials and are receiving assistance from the department in an endeavour to find out exactly what is there. Also, we are trying to get some help from co-operatives or private enterprises, which we hope will come into the territory.

Mr. RHEAUME: In earlier evidence it was suggested that as long as the federal government is the hiring agency for civil servants in the north it will not be possible for them to be so flexible as to hire local people. Do you feel there are improvements that could be made now in respect of federal government hiring policies which would allow for an additional leeway in respect of the graduates of our schools in your area of the north, as you know it?

Mr. KAESER: Yes. It is my opinion that if the territorial council would hire some of those experts the situation would improve to a great extent. In this way the men could be given more power under the Territorial Act and things could be made more flexible, as a result of which the whole thing would be speeded up.

Mr. RHEAUME: In respect of the responsibilities of the proposed resident commissioner I think all witnesses agree—and, as you know, the committee is agreed—on the importance of having a resident commissioner in the Northwest Territories. Would you be in favour of this commissioner being responsible to the council of the territory rather than responsible, say, to the minister, as is now proposed? Or, to put it this way, would you be in favour of giving the territorial council a greater degree of responsibility?

Mr. KAESER: Well, I think the resident commissioner should be more responsible to the territorial council than to the minister.

Mr. RHEAUME: As you know, the proposal is not that he be responsible to the territorial council but that he be responsible to the minister, and you would be in favour of a greater degree of responsibility, once we get our resident commissioner.

Mr. KAESER: Yes.

Mr. RHEAUME: And, for the record—there is no doubt in my mind—you are happy with the choice of the capital as outlined in the bill.

Mr. KAESER: Well, I guess so.

Mr. TURNER: As I understand it, this proposal for the division of the territory was first brought up at the territorial council meeting in 1960; since that time has it been discussed in the north?

Mr. KAESER: Oh, certainly, frequently.

Mr. TURNER: Do people generally know about it?

Mr. KAESER: Yes, they do, very much, especially in my area. I am speaking only of my area; I am not speaking about other areas. You see, the people in my area are more informed; they read the newspapers and listen to the radio. To put it another way, we have better communication than the people in the north.

Mr. TURNER: And you say this proposition has been fairly widely discussed?

Mr. KAESER: Yes, absolutely.

Mr. RHEAUME: To take this one step further, is there also a body of opinion in your area, as in Mr. Gall's, which is opposed to this division.

Mr. KAESER: No, none at all.

Mr. TURNER: You are saying there is no opposition to this division?

Mr. KAESER: No.

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): What is your opinion on the proposed transfer of authority over the native peoples from the Indian affairs department to the northern affairs department, which was one of the recommendations of the Glassco commission?

Mr. KAESER: I do not quite understand your question.

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): Well, the Indian affairs department will relinquish its controls over the native people in the area and the northern affairs department will replace the Indian affairs department in so far as administration is concerned.

Mr. KAESER: I would rather see this responsibility turned over to the territorial council.

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): Why?

Mr. KAESER: As I said before, we are more flexible than the federal government. In my opinion, our own civil servants would not be so handicapped as are the present civil servants. As I say, I would rather see that responsibility turned over to the territorial council.

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): When you speak of the lack of flexibility do you mean that it takes a long time to go through the necessary channels to Ottawa and receive word back?

Mr. KAESER: Yes.

Mr. TURNER: And you feel it would take less time now with the commissioner up at Fort Smith?

Mr. KAESER: It would. We hope it would.

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): Mr. Kaeser, the other gentlemen who have testified have indicated that the barriers to native peoples working for industry in the north are breaking down. What is your experience with the other type of barriers that perhaps still exist—social barriers? Is a conscious effort being made to eliminate the social barriers?

Mr. KAESER: Absolutely, and one will see that more and more. The Indian boys are going to school now with white boys; they are friends. The Indian

boys and white boys are growing up together, and one will not continue to see that barrier as it was seen in the earlier days. Certainly there will be a closer co-operation; there must be.

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): Are there white organizations in mixed communities which are helping?

Mr. KAESER: Certainly. For instance, we have a curling rink, and everyone is welcome. In my rink I have an Indian boy. My son is a curler, and he has some Indian boys there. There is no difference there at all. In the board of trade we have some half breeds; having businesses, they are in the board of trade. The rest of the organizations all work closely together.

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): I am completely ignorant of this: are there Indian reserves in your territory?

Mr. KAESER: No.

Mr. RHEAUME: I assume you would not be in favour at this time of Indian affairs branch setting up Indian reservations in the north?

Mr. KAESER: No, absolutely not. I think that is a thing of the past.

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): I was not suggesting that.

Mr. RHEAUME: No, but the intent of my question was to have the general feeling on the record.

Mr. KAESER: We hope there will be no Indian department in 40 or 50 years in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. GRAY: As a representative of probably the most southerly riding of Canada, I am happy to welcome another southerner to this committee to give evidence.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Kaeser.

I will call Mr. Goodall.

I trust you too, Mr. Goodall, will make a statement or indicate at least your constituency on the map.

Mr. GOODALL (*Elected Member of the Northwest Territory Council for Mackenzie Delta*): I will be prepared to do that.

My constituency is that part of the Northwest Territories known as Mackenzie district constituency, which is located at the southern end of the upper Mackenzie. I refer to my constituency as the upper Mackenzie. It extends from the British Columbia border in the south to Great Slave lake in the east, including Fort Providence and Norman Wells in the north, extending eastwards to Fort Franklin, and taking in part of Great Slave lake. However, practically all my constituents live on the main stem, which is the Mackenzie river and the Liard river. There are practically no homes in the Mackenzie river mountain area. The Mackenzie river has a couple of little villages at Fort Liard and Nahanni. The people who reside in that area live mostly off the land; they are self employed and they also take on casual labour jobs. At Fort Providence, there is fishery in the lake; and Fort Providence is the location of the homes of most of our pilots who work in the navigation season on the transportation boats. Fort Simpson itself is quite a thriving community; it is a development area. We have an area administrator; we have an advisory council; we have a very active fire brigade; and we have a very nice little town there.

Fort Simpson is noted as the garden town. This land is, and has for the last 100 years, been devoted to agriculture. People in that area, including myself, still augment their livelihoods by potato raising.

As we go down the river we come to Fort Ridley, Fort Franklin, Fort Norman; those are Indian villages, as I say, whose inhabitants make their

livelihood from the land. They are self employed, and also take on casual labouring positions.

Norman Wells is a company town, owned and operated by Imperial Oil. There are some 100 employees there, and most of these people are technicians. In the future, I think many of our boys who graduate from Fort Franklin and the vocational training school at Yellowknife, having received sufficient training to qualify them as skilled people, will find their slot in places like Norman Wells.

There is one matter I would like to emphasize. We must be forward-looking and really realize that the children of today are the citizens of tomorrow, and we must educate them so they can acquire skills which will qualify them to take jobs which at present are taken by people from the south, who are living in quite comfortable circumstances, people whom I have never considered as bona fide residents of the country. Their positions will be taken by the citizens of tomorrow.

The CHAIRMAN: May we know, sir, how long you have been a member of the council and how long you have lived in this area?

Mr. GOODALL: I have been in the fortunate position of being a member of the council for the last nine years, and I think the people still have faith in me in that they elected me on these three different occasions by acclamation. I have been a resident of the Northwest Territories for the last 30 years.

Mr. GRAY: Perhaps the witness can tell us how he gets elected by acclamation!

The CHAIRMAN: I do not think it is within the realm of the subject of the bill.

Mr. TURNER: What is your position on the division of the territory.

Mr. GOODALL: I am totally in favour of it. It was first introduced at the first session of council in the winter of 1960. Every angle of it has been thoroughly discussed at each session of the council since that time when it has come up for consideration. Various amendments have been made. The boundary of the two proposed territories has been outlined, and the matter is actually ready for approval.

Mr. TURNER: Do people in your constituency know about it?

Mr. GOODALL: Very well indeed. They are quite interested in the results of these two bills.

Mr. TURNER: Have they expressed their views to you, sir?

Mr. GOODALL: They have, and I have not heard any dissentient notes.

Mr. TURNER: Looking at your constituency on the map, I see the main artery is the Mackenzie river.

Mr. GOODALL: Right.

Mr. TURNER: Would you say that the Mackenzie valley is the economic base that unifies the territory that is going to be called the Mackenzie territory?

Mr. GOODALL: Very much so.

Mr. TURNER: There is a natural unity arising from the large river system that empties out at the delta?

Mr. GOODALL: Yes, quite similar to the sister territory of the Yukon.

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): What are your main reasons for supporting this division.

Mr. GOODALL: Because evolution is progressive. I have lived in the west and in the north for over 50 years. We first lived in an unorganized territory, then along came municipalities. This is a regular state of progression in a democratic form of government.

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): Do you feel it will be more efficient?

Mr. GOODALL: Yes, I think it will be a big step ahead.

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): With regard to the business of housing for the native population, is anything being done in company towns through Central Mortgage, or any of the national organizations, to provide housing or loans for housing?

Mr. GOODALL: Not in company towns, no.

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): Are the companies providing any houses for native employees?

Mr. GOODALL: Yes; they are well taken care of. Also, we have a number of native boys who find employment and give a very good account of themselves, because they have been identified with white people for the last couple of generations at least. We have been and are getting away gradually from living off the land. Trapping and hunting are seasonal. There still is a good livelihood to be made from hunting and trapping during the season; but now we are educating our children to work in a different way. They must be skilled; they must be able to take on these jobs. There is no future in having to do casual labour. The local fellows who are, shall I say, past school age, did not have too good an opportunity to attend the schools, although our present school system has been in operation for the last 15 years or so, and is beginning to tell a story. There is a certain segment of the population which we could almost call a lost generation; they have not had sufficient education to take on other than unskilled labour jobs. These people are beginning to realize they have missed something. I can notice a tremendous difference in the attitude of our children, young girls and boys, who are going to school now. They will be able to qualify provided they do not drop out.

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): On this question of adult education, is there any adult training being done in the Northwest Territories?

Mr. GOODALL: I understand there is at places like Yellowknife, but not so much in our particular area.

Mr. NIELSEN: May I ask Mr. Goodall the same question I asked other members of the council. As you know, the superior courts in each of the various provinces which I enumerated a moment ago can sit on civil cases arising in the territories; that is, special sittings of that court may be held within the provinces of, say, Newfoundland, New Brunswick, Ontario and Quebec. Do you think that is a good or a bad thing?

Mr. GOODALL: Mr. Chairman, I do not think I am sufficiently informed to give a considered opinion on that.

Mr. NIELSEN: If you were a litigant in a civil court case arising in your home in the Northwest Territories, would you prefer to have that case tried by the territorial court in the Northwest Territories, or in Ontario or Quebec by the Ontario or Quebec courts.

Mr. GOODALL: I would prefer to see it tried in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. NIELSEN: If the judicial system in the Northwest Territories were expanded sufficiently to meet the needs and requirements in the territories, do you think that a single judicial system adequately could discharge its responsibilities rather than two separate systems?

Mr. GOODALL: I am afraid I cannot give an intelligent reply to that in so far as I am not sufficiently informed.

Mr. NIELSEN: If this territory is created on the Mackenzie side, do you think the individual members of the council should have the power to introduce

a money bill in this legislature, always of course given the power of disallowance by the commissioner.

Mr. GOODALL: I am in agreement.

Mr. NIELSEN: Do you think the commissioner should have a vote at all on the council or only a casting vote in the case of a tie?

Mr. GOODALL: I think a casting vote in the case of a tie would be the answer.

Mr. RHEAUME: Do you feel that the commissioner should be more responsible to the territorial council in respect of the administration of territorial matters rather than report to the minister? Do you feel there should be a greater degree of responsibility to the territorial council on the part of the commissioner than presently is the case?

Mr. GOODALL: I do not think so, in so far as he is acting by and on the advice of council.

Mr. RHEAUME: If we have a resident commissioner, you do not see the need of having him answerable to the territorial council rather than to the minister of northern affairs?

Mr. GOODALL: No. I think he should be answerable to his superior.

Mr. RHEAUME: The federal minister?

Mr. GOODALL: Yes.

Mr. NIELSEN: You heard my question of Mr. Lang in respect of the financial advisory committee which we now have in the Yukon, wherein the financial advisory committee which is chosen from among the council members must be consulted by the commissioner in respect of the preparation of his budget. Do you think that is a good idea in relation to the new set-up in the Mackenzie territory?

Mr. GOODALL: Not right away. I would prefer to see some appointed members who have had the experience and who have the knowledge necessary in the preparation of budgets, and so on. They should be appointed members of our council as has been the case up until now. I do not think there should be any immediate changes in the present set-up.

Mr. NIELSEN: I think you misunderstood my question. I was speaking of a committee of council, and I described it as it exists in the Yukon. There is an advisory committee on finance which consists of three members of the Yukon council. This committee must be consulted by the commissioner in the preparation of his budget. At the moment the Northwest Territories do not have such an advisory committee on finance. Do you think it would be a good idea if there were such a committee so that there would be a requirement that the council be consulted in respect of the preparation of budgetary estimates for the Northwest Territories?

Mr. GOODALL: I think that would be a good thing, in so far as I believe the laws in the new Mackenzie territory should be very much in line with the laws of our sister territory of the Yukon.

Mr. RHEAUME: At the time this was under discussion and study by the territorial council—and I am aware this has been a matter of close scrutiny by the council for some years now—was the existing set-up in the Yukon investigated and discussed by council as an alternative to the proposals which were made regarding redivision; in other words, did the council of the Northwest Territories have an opportunity to thoroughly examine the set-up in the Yukon before arriving at the proposed new set-up for the Northwest Territories?

Mr. GOODALL: No.

Mr. RHEAUME: No detailed report in respect of its function was made available?

Mr. GOODALL: No.

Mr. RHEAUME: Do you recall whether or not a detailed report, prepared by the Department of Justice, or prepared by anyone in the Department of Justice, was studied as a basis for the new judicial set-up in the territories.

Mr. GOODALL: Not that I recall.

Mr. RHEAUME: Do you recall whether or not any detailed report prepared by the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys in respect of the minerology of the area as it relates to east and west was made available to the council at the time they were deciding this?

Mr. GOODALL: Not to my recollection.

Mr. RHEAUME: When the council was reaching these conclusions in relation to the costs of the proposed administrative set-up of the Northwest Territories, do you recall whether or not detailed costs concerning the increased federal responsibilities were presented to the council, or was it limited to what the extra territorial costs would be?

Mr. GOODALL: I am not prepared to answer that. My memory is not sufficiently good to recall all the things which were discussed apropos this proposed split of the territories.

Mr. RHEAUME: Mr. Chairman, I should like to thank Mr. Goodall. I realize these witnesses were brought to Ottawa very suddenly and asked many specific and detailed questions. I should like to thank Mr. Goodall very much.

Mr. TURNER: Mr. Goodall you mentioned that you would like to see a Yukon type of government adopted by the Mackenzie territory if this division takes place. You also said you believed in a gradual process. Do you mean that the eventual goal of the Mackenzie territory should be the establishment of a government somewhat along the lines of the government of the Yukon territory?

Mr. GOODALL: I should hope they would be pretty much alike. For instance, the game ordinances are not at all comparable at the present time.

Mr. NIELSEN: Mr. Chairman, perhaps I misinterpreted what Mr. Goodall said. I understood him to say he was not in favour of the type of government, but that the laws should be the same, as closely as possible.

Mr. GOODALL: Yes.

Mr. TURNER: I believe we are talking about a gradual evolution and development of the Northwest Territories, and in that gradual evolution there will be a more and more responsible government in the north. You believe in such a gradual process, do you?

Mr. GOODALL: I do believe in that, yes.

Mr. FLEMING (*Okanagan-Revelstoke*): Mr. Chairman, we have heard a good deal of testimony in respect of the desirability of establishing a territorial civil service under the jurisdiction of the council. Has the council given any indication when the federal government should create this civil service, or co-operate in the establishment of a separate or partially separate civil service for the Mackenzie territory if created?

Mr. GOODALL: No, Mr. Chairman, there has been no date set as to the accomplishment of this goal.

Mr. FLEMING (*Okanagan-Revelstoke*): Has this subject been discussed?

Mr. GOODALL: The subject certainly has been discussed, but this is a progressive thing. As these boys and girls, particularly the boys, become qualified,

graduating from grade 12 and from university and are prepared to take any position, then such a change could take place.

Mr. FLEMING (*Okanagan-Revelstoke*): There has been no specific time suggested as a possibility during your discussions?

Mr. GOODALL: No time whatsoever has been discussed in this regard. This has been left to the education department.

Mr. RHEAUME: Mr. Goodall, you would be in favour of a territorial government in the new territories having as an immediate objective the creation of its own civil service to allow the kind of flexibility that the other councillors have suggested?

Mr. GOODALL: Yes, Mr. Chairman. In this connection, when we talk of a civil service, I should point out that we do have a number of boys and young men who are filling positions in this field, such as the individuals who work for Northern Canada Power. These individuals are not civil servants in actuality but they are employed by the government. As far as their capabilities allow them they fit in very well. A number of young men have returned from the army and are able to give a good account of themselves. This is a progressive change, and I am very much encouraged by what has now happened. Our teachers are dedicated to their tasks, and I am sure this vision will be developed, and that within a decade there will be a tremendous change in the personnel in certain positions held now by responsible people in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. TURNER: Progress in this direction has taken place over the last ten years; is that right?

Mr. GOODALL: Yes. Only 15 years ago our present educational system was inaugurated.

Mr. GRAY: Mr. Goodall, I should like to verify one impression I have. One of the other witnesses was asked whether you had reports in respect of the operations of the Yukon when you were considering these changes. I gather you and your colleagues, elected and appointed, on the council have considered these changes very carefully in light of your knowledge of your own constituencies in the Northwest Territories? By that I mean, when you indicate to us that you and your constituents are in favour of this split-up, you obviously have considered these proposed changes in the legislation very carefully on the basis of your knowledge of the territory and of the people whom you represent?

Mr. GOODALL: Yes.

Mr. RHEAUME: Mr. Gray, I do not wish to interrupt your line of questioning, but I was going to refer to another subject. Perhaps I should defer to you.

Mr. GRAY: Perhaps this is not relevant to this line of questioning, but in view of the fact you have spent a great deal of time studying the reports from your own territory, I should like to be assured that you feel confident that these changes are required by your part of the country.

Mr. GOODALL: I am sure these changes will be beneficial to our area, and the people, especially those of my little home town, feel that these changes are desirable. I have yet to hear any voice of complaint or opposition to the program which has been proposed.

Mr. TURNER: The present ideas incorporated in the two bills before us, including that of a resident commissioner, are generally acceptable?

Mr. GOODALL: They are generally acceptable, yes.

Mr. RHEAUME: Mr. Goodall, you are the dean of the present territorial council by virtue of your seniority and length of service. We have asked the other commissioners for their opinions, and I should like to have your opinion in

this regard. On the basis of your nine years on that council do you feel it would be advisable to extend the term of an elected councillor to four years rather than three, keeping in mind the length of time required to gain a working knowledge of the administration?

Mr. GOODALL: I think it would be advantageous in many ways to have a four year term rather than a three year term.

Mr. RHEAUME: I take it you would be in favour of an amendment introduced in Bill C-83 changing the length of the term from three years to four years; is that right?

Mr. GOODALL: I do not think there would be any objection in this regard, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. NIELSEN: Mr. Chairman, may I suggest at this point that there is time for these gentlemen who have reservations for 12 o'clock to get to the airport for that flight. If the members of this committee have completed their examination of these witnesses they can still take that flight.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions? We should keep this situation in mind, but should not forgo any further questions as a result.

Mr. GRAY: Mr. Chairman, I think we as a committee should express our appreciation to these gentlemen for giving us the benefit of their experience and wisdom regarding matters of the north. I do not think we would have been able to consider these problems at whatever depth we are going to be able to consider them without their kindness in coming here and giving us their opinions.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

The CHAIRMAN: I should like to add my own words of appreciation to those of the members of this committee. I believe the members of this committee have been very fortunate in having the opportunity of receiving this first hand information from the north. We thank you and wish you a pleasant trip home. We trust that whatever this parliament may do will be helpful to you and your people.

Mr. GOODALL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen is it agreeable that we meet again in this room at 3.30 this afternoon?

Some hon. MEMBERS: Agreed.

DEPARTMENT OF
MINES AND TECHNICAL SURVEYS
SURVEY AND MAPPING BRANCH
**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
AND
YUKON TERRITORY**

SCALE 1:625,000

INTERNATIONAL

REFERENCE



APPENDIX A

Showing the Northwest Territories divided according to Bills C-43 and C-54 with the actual electoral constituencies.

SCALE 1:4,000,000
1 inch equals 63.33 miles

[illegible]

UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY (U//FOUO) is not intended to be the official policy and position of the Service and is not intended to be used as such. It is not intended to be used as a basis for legal action or as a basis for the Service's position on any issue. It is not intended to be used as a basis for the Service's position on any issue. It is not intended to be used as a basis for the Service's position on any issue.



APPENDIX B

HOUSE OF COMMONS

First Session—Twenty-sixth Parliament

1963

STANDING COMMITTEE

ON

MINES, FORESTS AND WATERS

Chairman: OSIAS GODIN, Esq.

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AND EVIDENCE

No. 2

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1963

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1963

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1963

Respecting

BILL C-83 (Subject)

An Act to amend the Northwest Territories Act and to rename the said Territories, and to effect certain consequential changes in the Statute Law with respect thereto.

and BILL C-84 (Subject)

An Act respecting the Nunassiaq Territory.

WITNESSES:

Messrs. David H. Searle, Executive Member of Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce, J. R. Coffey, President of Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce and A. R. Roddick, Immediate Past President of Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce.

ROGER DUHAMEL, F.R.S.C.

QUEEN'S PRINTER AND CONTROLLER OF STATIONERY
OTTAWA, 1963

STANDING COMMITTEE ON MINES, FORESTS AND WATERS

Chairman: Osias Godin, Esq.

Vice-Chairman: Grant Deachman, Esq.

and Messrs.

Alkenbrack	Gendron	Martineau
Asselin (<i>Richmond-Wolfe</i>)	Godin	Mitchell
Berger	Granger	Moreau
Blouin	Gray	Nielsen
Cadieu (<i>Meadow Lake</i>) ¹	Grégoire	Rhéaume
Cyr	Habel	Rideout
Deachman	Harley	Roxburgh
Dinsdale	Howard	Simpson
Doucett	Laprise	Turner
Fleming (<i>Okanagan-Revelstoke</i>)	Leboe	Watson (<i>Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie</i>)
Flemming (<i>Victoria-Carleton</i>)	Leduc	—35.
	Loney	
	MacInnis	
	Martin (<i>Timmins</i>)	

(Quorum 10)

Maxime Guitard,
Clerk of the Committee.

¹ Mr. Kindt replaces Mr. Cadieu (*Meadow Lake*) as of Dec. 2, 1963.

ORDER OF REFERENCE

MONDAY, December 2, 1963.

Ordered,—That the name of Mr. Kindt be substituted for that of Mr. Cadieu on the Standing Committee on Mines, Forests and Waters.

Attest.

LÉON-J. RAYMOND,
The Clerk of the House.

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY, December 4, 1963.

(5)

The Standing Committee on Mines, Forests and Waters met at 9:10 o'clock a.m. this day. The Chairman, Mr. Osias J. Godin, presided.

Members present: Alkenbrack, Deachman, Dinsdale, Doucett, Flemming (Victoria-Carleton), Godin, Granger, Gray, Grégoire, Habel, Herridge, Kindt, Leduc, MacInnis, Martineau, Mitchell, Moreau, Nielsen, Rhéaume, Rideout, Roxburgh, Simpson, Turner, Watson (*Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*),—(24).

The Committee resumed consideration of the subject-matters of Bills C-83 and C-84.

The Chairman called a motion allowed to stand at the sitting of November 26, 1963, and presided as follows:

Moved by Mr. Grégoire, seconded by Mr. Dinsdale, that the Minister of Natural Resources of both the Provinces of Quebec and Ontario, and also the Minister of Northern Affairs of Canada be invited to appear before this Committee.

The Chairman ruled that motion out of order. He quoted Beauchesne's 4th Edition, p. 244, citation 304 (1).

Mr. Grégoire expressed his desire to appeal the Chairman's ruling but refrained from doing so after Mr. Nielsen, a member of the Committee, had quoted Beauchesne's 4th Edition, p. 240, citation 295 (1).

On motion of Mr. Rhéaume, seconded by Mr. Nielsen,

Resolved.—That the expenses of all witnesses recommended by the Steering Committee, namely:

Mr. Robert Williamson, Rankin Inlet, N.W.T.,
Rev. Father Louis Lemer, O.M.I., Cambridge Bay, N.W.T.,
Frobisher Bay Chamber of Commerce (One representative), Frobisher Bay, N.W.T.,
Judge J. H. Sissons, Yellowknife, N.W.T.,
Port Manager, Churchill, Manitoba,
Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce (One representative), Fort Smith, N.W.T.,
Yellowknife Board of Trade (One representative), Yellowknife, N.W.T.,
Mr. P. A. C. Nichols, Manager of Hudson Bay Company, Winnipeg, Manitoba, and the five appointed members of the Territorial Council of the Northwest Territories,

be paid, except the Minister of Natural Resources of both the Provinces of Quebec and Ontario, the Minister of Northern Affairs of Canada, and Mr. Mark DeWeerd.

And the question being put on the said motion, it was resolved, by a show of hands, unanimously.

Mr. Grégoire moved, seconded by Mr. Rhéaume, that the subject-matters of the Boundaries Act 1912 be discussed and reviewed by this Committee.

The Chairman ruled that motion out of order. He quoted Beauchesne's 4th Edition, p. 244, citation 304 (1).

On motion of Mr. Grégoire, seconded by Mr. Rhéaume, that the Ministers of Natural Resources of the Provinces of Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec be called by this Committee.

Both the mover and the seconder agreed to let the said motion stand until the steering Committee considers it and reports to the main Committee.

A 10:55 o'clock a.m. the Committee adjourned until Friday at 9:00 o'clock a.m.

FRIDAY, December 6, 1963.

(6)

The Standing Committee on Mines, Forests and Waters met at 9:17 o'clock a.m. this day. The Chairman, Mr. Osias Godin, presided.

Members present: Messrs. Alkenbrack, Asselin (*Richmond-Wolfe*), Deachman, Dinsdale, Doucett, Fleming (*Okanagan-Revelstoke*), Godin, Granger, Gray, Grégoire, Harley, Leduc, MacInnis, Martineau, Mitchell, Rhéaume, Simpson, Turner and Watson (*Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*),—(19).

The Committee resumed consideration of Bills C-83 and C-84.

The Chairman announced the following changes in the membership of the Steering Committee: The name of Mr. Turner to be substituted for that of Mr. Deachman, and the name of Mr. Howard for that of Mr. Herridge.

The Committee instructed the Clerk of the Committee to prepare, jointly with Mr. Rhéaume, a schedule of the dates on which the witnesses from the Northwest Territories should be called to appear before this Committee. Instruction was also given to the Clerk of the Committee to make sure that the notice to appear, sent to the said witnesses specify that they will be allowed their reasonable living and travelling expenses.

On Motion of Mr. Watson (*Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*), seconded by Mr. Rhéaume,

Resolved:—That the motion of Mr. Grégoire, standing since the last meeting of the Committee to the effect of calling the Provincial Minister of Natural Resources of Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec, be disposed of this morning.

Mr. Grégoire moved, seconded by Mr. Rhéaume, that the Ministers of the Natural Resources of the Provinces of Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec, be called by this Committee.

And debate arising thereon, the question being put on the said motion, it was negatived on the following division:

Yeas: Messrs. Dinsdale, Fleming (*Okanagan-Revelstoke*), Grégoire, MacInnis, Martineau, Rhéaume, Simpson,—(7); *Nays:* Messrs. Asselin (*Richmond-Wolfe*), Deachman, Granger, Gray, Harley, Leduc, Mitchell, Turner, Watson (*Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*)—(9).

Mr. Turner moved, seconded by Mr. Watson (*Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*), that this Committee go to the House to seek new terms of reference empowering this Committee to consider the question of the off-shore islands, the borders between the Provinces and the Northwest Territories.

And the question being put on the said motion, it was resolved unanimously. *Yeas:* Messrs. Asselin (*Richmond-Wolfe*), Deachman, Dinsdale, Granger, Grégoire, Leduc, MacInnis, Martineau, Mitchell, Rhéaume, Simpson, Turner and Watson (*Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*),—(13). *Nays:* 0.

At 10:58 o'clock a.m. the Committee adjourned until Monday next at 3:30 o'clock p.m.

MONDAY, December 9, 1963.

(7)

The Standing Committee on Mines, Forests and Waters met this day at 3:53 o'clock p.m. The Chairman, Mr. Osias J. Godin, presided.

Members present: Messrs. Asselin (*Richmond-Wolfe*), Berger, Deachman, Dinsdale, Fleming (*Okanagan-Revelstoke*), Godin, Granger, Grégoire, Habel, Kindt, Leboe, Loney, Moreau, Nielsen, Rhéaume, Roxburgh, Simpson, Turner, Watson (*Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*), (19).

In attendance: Mr. David H. Searle, Executive member of Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce.

The Committee resumed consideration of the subject-matters of Bills C-83 and C-84.

Mr. David H. Searle was called; he read his prepared statement and was questioned thereon.

His examination being completed, the witness retired.

At 6:00 o'clock p.m. the Committee adjourned until this evening at 8:00 o'clock p.m.

EVENING SITTING

(8)

The Standing Committee on Mines, Forests and Waters met this evening at 8:38 o'clock p.m. The Chairman, Mr. Osias J. Godin presided.

Members present: Messrs. Asselin (*Richmond-Wolfe*), Berger, Blouin, Cyr, Dinsdale, Doucett, Godin, Granger, Habel, Kindt, Leboe, Rhéaume, Turner, Watson (*Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*) (15).

In attendance: Messrs. J. R. Coffey, President of Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce and A. R. Roddick, Immediate Past President of Forth Smith Chamber of Commerce.

The Committee resumed consideration of the Subject-matters of Bills C-83 and C-84.

On motion of Mr. Rhéaume, seconded by Mr. Dinsdale,

Resolved:—That the two witnesses be questioned concurrently.

And the examination of the witnesses being completed, they retired.

At 10:00 o'clock p.m. the Committee adjourned until Wednesday at 9:00 o'clock a.m.

Maxime Guitard,
Clerk of the Committee.

EVIDENCE

WEDNESDAY, December 4, 1963.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, I believe we have a quorum. The last meeting was held on Wednesday of last week and since then a steering committee was formed and one or two meetings of the steering committee were held mostly pertaining to the witnesses which the committee wished to call.

Before we begin this meeting I believe it would be proper that a word be said on a point of order raised in the House of Commons which was referred back to the committee as not being proper for the House of Commons. I regret very much that Mr. Grégoire himself is not here, but I think it would be proper and I think members of the committee would wish their Chairman to state what the problem may have been. When we adjourned last Wednesday we had finished examining the four elected representatives of the Northwest Territories, and the committee was very co-operative in proceeding with the meetings, two or three in a row, so that these gentlemen could return to the Northwest Territories. At the close of the last meeting on Wednesday, just before lunch, I as the Chairman asked if we should meet in the afternoon. As members were more or less getting up, I thought we should meet at 3:30 since we did have other witnesses who were available in Ottawa. I recall making the remark that we should meet at 3:30. The Clerk of the committee left on that assumption and we all stood up and most of the members present shook hands and bid goodbye to the gentlemen from the north. After this I talked to a few of the members, to Mr. Nielsen and to some others, and they indicated they were quite busy in the afternoon and they thought it would be difficult for them to come to the meeting. With that in mind after lunch I interviewed members of the other parties who were not present, such as Mr. Leboe and Mr. Herridge and told them that I would like to see them try to form a steering committee. In the afternoon there were four or five members present shortly after 3:30, as the notice indicated, and some 15 minutes later there were approximately five or six members present. I recall stating that I felt as there was no quorum there could be no meeting. I then called Mr. Nielsen and Mr. Rhéaume to see if we could not have some discussion on the setting up of a steering committee. Shortly after four o'clock, according to my watch, Mr. Grégoire came to the committee room with Mr. Caouette, who is not a member of this committee. I recall that at that time two or three other members walked into the committee room, and Mr. Grégoire insisted that a meeting be held and indicated that he had just completed an arrangement for proceeding with the formation of the steering committee. As there was no quorum and it was approximately a quarter to four we proceeded with a short discussion, between Mr. Grégoire and myself in which I stated that I had no authority to set up a steering committee. Mr. Alkenbrack also indicated some doubts as to the propriety of doing this. I told both the gentlemen that the steering committee would be definitely set up according to the rules. Mr. Alkenbrack indicated that that is so. At that time I walked out of the room. In conclusion, I feel that it is proper for me to say to the members of the committee that it was not proper for one of the members to insist that a meeting take place in the circumstances which existed at that time.

Those are the remarks which I wanted to set forth concerning this incident. Since then the steering committee has had two meetings in my

office. Would the Clerk please read the motion under which I proceeded to form the steering committee?

The CLERK OF THE COMMITTEE: At the organization meeting held on Monday, November 25, 1963 Mr. Turner moved, seconded by Mr. Asselin (*Richmond-Wolfe*):

Resolved: that the subcommittee on agenda and procedure comprised of the Chairman, the Vice Chairman and five other persons designed by the Chairman be appointed.

That occurred at the organization meeting.

The CHAIRMAN: That was passed unanimously. I then felt that I should have with me as many people as possible so that we may proceed in assisting the committee in receiving the proper evidence which it should obtain. After thinking things over I as Chairman felt that possibly three members of the Liberal party could be asked to sit on the committee, if you take roughly one-half of the seven members which were indicated in the motion. However, I then felt that possibly all opinions would not well be served in that way and I was happy to limit that representation to two members so that I could request Mr. Grégoire to be invited also. I would like to state, as Chairman of this committee, that this was in no way a recognition of any official group but that I thought it would be helpful in discussing problems of the committee to have as many opinions as possible. The members of this committee are probably well known to all of you now: Myself, as Chairman, Mr. Deachman as Vice-Chairman, Mr. Rheame, Mr. Fleming (*Okanagan-Revelstoke*), Mr. Leboe, Mr. Herridge and Mr. Grégoire—those are the seven members of the steering committee.

Are there any remarks on this matter? If not, we shall proceed with the next item. We have gone over the possible witnesses the various parties representing the various groups may wish to hear. I must state that we have quite a number of names. Firstly, it was suggested in the committee that we should have the five appointed members of the commission to testify, if that is the wish of the committee. You probably know all those gentlemen and I could read their names out later. Then, came the names of people who are less well known. The steering committee made a motion to present to the committee itself all the names suggested by the various people in the steering committee. I would like to read to you the names. I am listing them in three categories and I believe it will be obvious to the committee why I do so. I can give you the names of the persons mentioned—Reverend Father Louis Lemer, Mr. Robert Williamson and Mr. Graham Rowley. I was given a short history and background of these people. We also have on our list Mr. P. Nichols of the Hudson Bay Company, and the port manager of Churchill, Manitoba. Then follow the representatives of organizations. I thought I should list them separately.

The CHAIRMAN: One more individual in the person of Mr. Mark DeWeerd, a solicitor from the Northwest Territories, has been mentioned.

I now come to the associations. The Frobisher Bay chamber of commerce was mentioned; the Fort Smith chamber of commerce and the Yellowknife board of trade were mentioned as possible bodies that should be invited to appear.

Mr. RHÉAUME: Mr. Chairman, it seems to me that the steering committee also recommended that judge J. H. Sissons should testify.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes. It was my thought that the members of this committee should have the opportunity of deciding which of these people and organizations should be called.

There is also a motion in respect of the boundary limits of Quebec. I will also present this separately.

Your chairman has tried to obtain information in respect of the practices followed by committees regarding expenses paid to witnesses. I must frankly admit there is no set or fast rule in this regard. The committee is responsible for its actions and may do as it sees fit in respect of expenses to witnesses.

It is my suggestion that in respect of some of these witnesses the committee decides to call, expenses should be paid. Other witnesses who may be invited may indicate their willingness to attend only if their expenses are paid. It is within the competence of this committee to deal with this matter.

Mr. KINDT: Mr. Chairman, I do not think we should differentiate between witnesses in respect of their expenses.

The CHAIRMAN: It is my feeling that many members of labour unions testifying before public hearings pay their own expenses because of their satisfaction in voicing their opinions before public bodies. It has been suggested that we ask different chambers of commerce to appear, and it is up to this committee to decide whether the expenses of representatives of those bodies should be paid.

Mr. RHÉAUME: Mr. Chairman, before we get into this discussion I think you should read the complete list of names recommended by the steering committee.

The CHAIRMAN: Your steering committee recommended that we call upon Judge Sissons to testify as well as the ministers of natural resources for the provinces of Quebec and Ontario, and the minister of Northern Affairs, Mr. Laing. Those are the four other individuals mentioned.

Mr. Plouffe's assistant is present today. Is it the wish of this committee to have Mr. Innes outline the practice of committees in regard to expenses?

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: I suggest we make a complete list of all the suggested names and agree to that list.

Mr. HABEL: Do you suggest we also include the chambers of commerce in that list?

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: Yes.

Mr. TURNER: Mr. Chairman, on that particular point, there are witnesses being called before this committee for two reasons. Firstly, to express the views of the people within the Northwest Territories and, secondly, witnesses from the Ontario and Quebec provincial governments, at the insistence of Mr. Grégoire, to deal with a specific problem, namely that involving the islands.

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: Who said that? I was at the steering committee and there was no mention of the purposes for which these people were being called.

Mr. TURNER: Mr. Chairman, I rely, as a basis for my statement, on that list of names included in Mr. Grégoire's motion which is still before this committee. In that motion he called for invitations to witnesses including the provincial ministers of natural resources. I feel that the committee should not make a global list until it has decided whether Mr. Grégoire's motion is in order, because if it is not in order the committee will not find it necessary to invite these witnesses.

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: Mr. Chairman, I withdraw that motion and suggest that the proposed list of witnesses be approved, and that the suggested names be accepted globally.

The CHAIRMAN: We must have some communication between this committee, through its Chairman or its clerk, and these proposed witnesses. I suggest it is the responsibility of this committee to make some decision in regard to the paying of these witnesses' expenses.

Mr. RHEAUME: Mr. Chairman, to settle this question, we have a list of names recommended by the steering committee. I move, seconded by Mr.

Nielsen, that expenses incurred by the attendance of these witnesses before this committee be paid by the committee, and that all the witnesses listed on the recommendation of the steering committee, be summonsed to appear, and the expenses be paid in full.

Mr. MOREAU: Mr. Chairman, I should like to ask Mr. Rheame a question if I may. What unanimity was there at the steering committee that these people should be called? It seems that something is being imposed upon us. I think we should at least be given some indication regarding the qualifications of the suggested witnesses. I may find myself agreeing with nine-tenths of the suggested names but not with the others, and I think it is somewhat dangerous to accept this suggest list as a package deal.

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: There was no opposition in respect of any of the suggested names at the steering committee meeting.

The CHAIRMAN: I regret there are no minutes of the steering committee meeting, but undoubtedly the majority of members were in favour of calling as witnesses those individuals named on the suggested list. Certainly the steering committee does not have the right to stipulate or indicate that the committee is limited in any way in respect of witnesses to be called. I think Mr. Rheame will admit that I had some objections to the calling of four suggested witnesses, but I am, after all, only one member of that committee. I am prepared to accept the general opinion of the members of that committee, and for that reason I am trying to be careful in our considerations this morning in an attempt to avert any argument regarding the type of evidence or witnesses to be called.

Mr. RHEAUME: Mr. Chairman, perhaps it would be helpful if I read into the record the thumbnail sketch that was available to the members of the steering committee in respect of these individuals who have been suggested as possible witnesses?

The CHAIRMAN: You are entitled to state your opinions.

Mr. RHEAUME: The first individual is Reverend Father Louis Lemer. He is a Catholic priest. He is at present chairman of the Cambridge bay community association at Cambridge bay, and you will find Cambridge bay on Victoria island, the large island immediately north of the central mainland. Father Lemer has spent the past 30 years in the Canadian north serving in such communities as Baker lake, Coppermine and Cambridge bay. He has travelled widely among the Eskimo and Indian people and speaks Eskimo fluently. He is the editor of the monthly magazine "Nuna" which is widely circulated in Eskimo and English among the northern people.

Mr. WATSON (*Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): I think we will all agree to pay his expenses.

Mr. RHEAUME: The second individual is Robert Williamson of Rankin inlet which you will find immediately north of Churchill. He has been in the Canadian north since 1951 and has worked both in the Arctic and along the Mackenzie river. He is a graduate in arts from Carleton University. Mr. Williamson is the foremost Eskimo linguist living in the north, having mastered all of the Eskimo dialects. He served as an officer with the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources for eight years both in Ottawa and in the north. He resigned from the civil service in the spring of 1963 and now makes his home in Rankin inlet. He is writing a book on the economic and social evolution of the north and the Eskimo's role in the north. His present income consists of a Canada Council grant plus part-time work for the C.B.C. as the Keewatin reporter in Eskimo and English.

Mr. Justice Sissons has been judge of the territorial court since 1955, when that court was repatriated to the Northwest Territories after a 50 year

absence. Judge Sissons has travelled thousands of miles to all parts of the territories since 1956 and knows the country and its people intimately. He was a Liberal member of parliament for Peace River for five years, 1940 to 1945. He has extensive knowledge of the existing judicial set-up in the Northwest Territories and has definite and very strong views on proposed changes.

I also suggested that a representative from the Frobisher bay chamber of commerce be summoned because you will notice that Father Lemer represents the northern Arctic; Mr. Williamson is in the Keewatin area, and the other major geo-political unit is Baffin island.

As I said, I have suggested that a representative from the Frobisher bay chamber of commerce should be summoned to present the views of the people of the eastern Arctic and the largest Eskimo community, Frobisher bay. The residents of this area have been subject to territorial ordinances for the past years, but have not had elected representatives on the Northwest Territories council. They are concerned with the future economic and political development of the area, and must be heard before the proposed legislation goes through. They have, as yet, had no constitutional means of participating in the decisions of the Northwest Territories council, or to present recommendations as to constitution of any new council which may be formed to represent them.

The other names you listed are people who have requested that they be allowed to be heard. Perhaps I should mention one other, namely Mr. Graham Rowley, Department of Northern Affairs, Ottawa.

Mr. Rowley is the secretary of the advisory committee on northern development, a body that consists of senior representatives of all federal departments operating in the Canadian north. The purpose of the A.C.N.D. is to plan and co-ordinate federal activities and long-range programs for northern development. Mr. Rowley has many years experience in the Arctic, starting with his explorations of the Foxe Basin in 1936. Mr. Rowley explored the Arctic until the outbreak of world war II. After the war ended he returned to Canada and was commander of the advance party for operation Musk-ox carried out by the Canadian army in Canada's far north. After several years with the Defence Research Board doing Arctic research, Mr. Rowley took his present position as secretary for the A.C.N.D. In recognition of his achievements in northern exploration and research Mr. Rowley was awarded the Massey medal for 1963.

Mr. MOREAU: Is he in Ottawa?

Mr. RHEAUME: Yes.

Mr. WATSON (*Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): I think we should pay the first four mentioned by Mr. Rheume.

Mr. KINDT: I think we should go further than that. We should take into consideration that the people in these centres are tremendously interested in their particular centre in the same way the city of Hamilton would be interested in Hamilton and Toronto would be interested in Toronto. Even though they are just fledgling organizations with few people, if a decision were made concerning the north and they were not consulted the decision of this government never would be forgiven. So, we want to proceed with caution in consulting these people and not go off the deep end and say: "Well, we have four and that is it". There are a lot more communities up there besides these people and unless the men chosen can be said to represent all these other areas and are recognized as such then I think we ought to bring enough people in to represent the north.

Mr. MACINNIS: The Chair has a motion before it on which there was no action taken. The discussion can go on but the motion first must be put.

The CHAIRMAN: You may be in order. You are referring to the motion of Mr. Rheume.

Mr. MACINNIS: Yes, which was seconded by Mr. Nielsen.

The CHAIRMAN: I think the motion should be written out so the Chairman can read it.

Mr. TURNER: We have an appropriate motion.

Mr. MOREAU: What did your motion include?

Mr. RHEAUME: I suggested we should invite a member from the chamber of commerce to present the views of the people of the eastern Arctic. We are not talking about someone coming from Winnipeg now but from Baffin island, a representative of the Frobisher bay chamber of commerce and someone from Yellowknife, and in view of this I think it would be money well spent in order that the committee may have the advantage of these views. None of us quarrelled when the former councillors of the Northwest Territories were heard earlier, and their expenses were paid. We did it unquestionably because it was an opportunity that we could take advantage of.

My motion is that we pay the expenses of all witnesses.

The CHAIRMAN: But there is a possibility that some of these interested parties would be very pleased to come on their own, as is the case in respect of many bodies in Canada who come here to testify.

Mr. KINDT: A chamber of commerce up in the north is one thing and a chamber of commerce down here is another. There it consists only of a group of a few people getting together. They have no funds; they are strictly on their own as there is no money up in that part of the country. Let us not confuse what a chamber of commerce is in that country compared to here. As I said, their organizations up there comprise only a half a dozen people banded together and they call themselves a development association or some other name.

The CHAIRMAN: Some of the committee members are not aware of the evidence you are giving.

Mr. KINDT: I am trying to make them aware of the situation up there.

The CHAIRMAN: That is very well, but there may be some who would be most pleased to testify in the same way as other parties do for the interest which they represent.

Mr. WATSON (*Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): I have a natural fear of bringing down hordes of people from the north to testify when one or two people from each section would be sufficient. I have no objection.

Mr. RHEAUME: As you know, the steering committee made a recommendation to this committee and the motion is that the witnesses recommended to this committee by the steering committee have their expenses paid, and this is what will prevent us bringing down the other 25,000 people.

Mr. TURNER: Do I understand that there is some doubt whether or not there was a recommendation of the steering committee or whether it was just that the Chairman agreed to bring before this committee all the names submitted by any member of the steering committee.

Mr. HERRIDGE: I was present, Mr. Chairman, at that meeting. I moved a motion, seconded by Mr. Grégoire that we recommend the names which were presented to this committee.

The CHAIRMAN: That is what we are doing now. We are presenting these names to the committee. I have a list of witnesses here, and that is what I am trying to do this morning.

Mr. MACINNIS: You have tried hard enough.

Mr. KINDT: I think members are entitled to speak before the motion is put.

The CHAIRMAN: Do you want it re-read?

Mr. MACINNIS: I am aware what the motion is but what I cannot understand is the attitude of the Chair. The Chair itself is not conducting the manner in which this committee will proceed; your duty is to participate in bringing order to the committee.

The CHAIRMAN: I am sorry it was considered that way. I was trying to place before the committee the list of names which the steering committee has suggested should be placed before this committee, and in doing that—having the responsibility that the Chair has in any meeting—I was trying to indicate the problems that I saw involved in the steering committee and in the last meeting of this committee last Wednesday. I was trying to segregate the problems so a proper discussion could be held on these few problems.

Mr. MACINNIS: It is quite evident to me, Mr. Chairman, that the names put forward here this morning have been already placed before the steering committee and accepted, in accordance with the motion moved I understand by Mr. Herridge and seconded by Mr. Grégoire.

The CHAIRMAN: The motion was not written out. I am trying to explain what I was told. I went to the source to find out what a steering committee is and I found that it is to assist the committee in procedure. In outlining the names of the witnesses it is proper, I am told, for the Chairman to indicate the problem which results from the list of witnesses to be called. That was the only intention of the Chair. There is a motion, moved and seconded by Mr. Rheaume and Mr. Nielsen, that the expenses of all witnesses called by the steering committee be paid. The discussion is open. I trust you will see the propriety of the Chair calling for discussion on this motion.

Mr. MACINNIS: Exactly. It should have been done ten minutes ago.

Mr. MOREAU: The Chairman of the steering committee should have the right to mention names to the committee. I object to the wording of the motion. I do not believe the steering committee can direct this committee to hear all witnesses they may suggest. I feel the steering committee should have the right to put forward names to this committee but I do not think they should compel us to hear these witnesses and pay their expenses. I wonder if Mr. Rheaume might rephrase his motion.

Mr. RHEAUME: I was present and Mr. Herridge was present when the steering committee recommended that the following witnesses be heard, and that is all my motion says; it is with reference to the names recommended by the steering committee.

Mr. MOREAU: I just wanted to raise a point here. There may be other names suggested by the steering committee and I do not think the steering committee's recommendation is necessarily binding on this committee. Therefore, there is an objectionable phrase in the motion; I at least find it objectionable and I would like to see it rephrased. I think this committee should have the final determination of whether any witness will be heard by the committee.

Mr. HERRIDGE: That is just what we are trying to do. Mr. Rheaume has moved this motion as a member of this committee now sitting and it is for this committee to decide.

Mr. MOREAU: It seems to me the motion is very sweeping and that in a future meeting of the steering committee they may decide that another witness shall be heard and we will be compelled to hear him and pay his expenses because the motion reads that witnesses recommended by the steering committee will be heard and expenses will be paid. I say this committee should have the final decision on whether they will be heard.

Mr. MACINNIS: I agree with the last speaker. It is now time to put the motion to the committee.

Mr. NIELSEN: I think Mr. Moreau has a point. Perhaps Mr. Rheaume might be amenable to amending his motion to say "witnesses recommended by the steering committee at its last meeting".

Mr. RHEAUME: I will be agreeable to that if it will overcome the difficulty. I can see the point.

Mr. GRAY: The first question should be decided first, and that is whether any or all witnesses recommended by the steering committee be heard. Once that has been decided then we should move to the secondary and subsidiary question, whether we are going to pay the expenses of any or all of them. I would suggest, Mr. Chairman, that a more appropriate course would be first to proceed to consider which of the witnesses you want to hear and in what order, and then, once we determine that, to decide the question of the payment of expenses. I think an omnibus motion of the type that I gather is being presented to us will only create unnecessary difficulty.

Mr. TURNER: I would support that argument. I do not think the committee as a whole has any objection to hearing people from the Northwest Territories who represent legitimate views, either for or against the two bills before us. Some of the names on the list put before the committee by Mr. Grégoire do not represent people of the north; they would merely serve to speak to an entirely different question, namely whether the bills should be amended to provide for annexation.

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: I resent this. It is just hearsay by Mr. Turner to say they would come here for this or for that. I think he has no right to comment in this manner and misrepresent the words I might have said to him in private conversation.

Mr. TURNER: I object to that. The words I am quoting from Mr. Grégoire's mouth are part of a motion that was made before this committee and is still before the Chair.

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: Read the motion.

Mr. TURNER: I would like to be allowed to finish what I have to say.

It is quite clear from Mr. Grégoire's motion that he asks that the Minister of the department of national resources of Quebec and the minister of national resources of Ontario be heard, and be heard on a different point—not to express views for or against this bill, as coming from the people of the north, but relating to a question which some of us feel has no bearing on the present legislation at all, namely whether the Littoral islands of Hudson Bay and northern Quebec should be ceded to the province of Quebec as an amendment to this bill; in other words we cannot support a global list of witnesses, certainly not before we decide on whether the additional subject of the Quebec islands is pertinent and relevant to the committee.

The second point that Mr. Gray made is that surely after deciding who we want to invite not in a global way, then we should decide which of these witnesses should have their expenses paid by the committee. The only precedent this committee has set so far is to pay a per diem living expense in Ottawa for three days for the four members of the Northwest Territories whose mandate expired on November 29. What the motion brings before us today is that expenses including transportation should be granted to a global list, to all names on that list. It is up to this committee, after deciding who it wants to hear, to decide which one of these witnesses is to be compensated for his out of pocket expenses. That should depend on how representative these witnesses are. The amendment Mr. Rheaume has moved does have a certain representative value. I do not know Mr. Williamson but the others come here in a representational fashion. It is up to the committee to decide are these representative enough of the districts from which they come and can they express

opinions on this matter which the committee will be entitled to hear. In other words, are these serious witnesses and not frivolous witnesses, and will the committee in setting a precedent put a limit upon whom they will hear and how long the list is going to be? It is going to cost, as I understand it, \$500 per man for the committee to hear these witnesses from the north.

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: I move the motion be now put.

The CHAIRMAN: We should do certain things in order. You will recall that at the last meeting of this committee Mr. Grégoire's motion was requested to stand. It says:

Moved by Mr. Grégoire, seconded by Mr. Fleming that the ministers of natural resources of the provinces of Quebec and Ontario or the representatives be invited to come before the committee to give their opinions as to the limitations of the frontiers between the provinces and the territories of the Northwest.

That is the motion, and of course, the Chair indicated that it had queries and requested the committee if it could stand. The committee agreed and Mr. Grégoire agreed that it could stand. Of course, the Chair has no ambition to speak too much at any sittings of the committee, but you realize that these first matters are pertinent to the proper operation of the committee and the Chair has, I believe, if it has any responsibility at all, the responsibility of doing that. Of course, I made extensive studies as to the propriety of the committee hearing evidence on the matters of the frontiers of the provinces and the Northwest Territories.

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: Are you giving argument now, Mr. Chairman?

The CHAIRMAN: No; I am just indicating what the committee sees as the situation in respect of the matters which arose.

Mr. TURNER: Before we decide whether or not the two names suggested by Mr. Grégoire be made a part of this list, we should first of all decide whether it is a pertinent subject for this committee to consider; that is whether the question of the frontiers of the Northwest Territories, the province of Ontario and the province of Quebec ought to be discussed by this committee at this time.

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: I move that the question on this point now be put.

Mr. TURNER: What I am suggesting, through the Chair, is that if we add the two particular names now, this matter later might be declared out of order, be complicated and unnecessarily prejudice the people of the north.

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: On a point of order, I move that we now put the motion.

The CHAIRMAN: I am wondering which motion should have precedence. This discussion involves both motions. I would like the committee to assist the Chair in respect of the two motions which are now under discussion.

Mr. GRAY: Perhaps Mr. Rheaume would consent to having his motion withdrawn and submit two separate motions. First we might begin with the series of motions in respect of each of the names. I think this is something we could decide quickly without controversy. Once we dispose of the decision in respect of calling people, then we can deal with the more simple question of payment of expenses. In this way we will also deal with Mr. Grégoire's point which I recognize as being of importance to him.

Mr. NIELSEN: I did not look at the fact that Mr. Grégoire's motion was still before the committee and what effect it may have on Mr. Rheaume's motion. I think, for the sake of order, the motions should be treated separately. For that purpose, perhaps Mr. Rheaume might be agreeable to amending his motion to exclude the individuals listed in the motion who were named by Mr.

Grégoire at the previous meeting. Then we might vote on Mr. Grégoire's motion, or Mr. Rheame's motion, or in the order in which you, Mr. Chairman, decide.

In view of the previous motion, I do not think we could proceed with Mr. Rheame's motion. My suggestion to Mr. Rheame is that he might amend his motion to exclude those individuals, the ministers of natural resources of the province of Quebec and Ontario, and the minister of northern affairs, or some persons on their behalf.

Mr. MOREAU: I would also ask Mr. Rheame to remove the proposition that the steering committee decide. If it is to the effect that it will be those witnesses the committee decides on, then I would be in favour of it.

Mr. NIELSEN: Perhaps it could be restricted to the list of witnesses as recommended at the last meeting of the steering committee.

Mr. DINSDALE: Mr. Chairman, I would strongly support Mr. Nielsen's proposal. I think it would be most unfortunate if this committee took any action which would make it impossible for representatives of the northerners to speak directly to the bills. I think it is important we have representatives from the various areas dealing with the subject matter of the bills. I say this because it makes me an honest man. The former administration had indicated such a committee would be called, and that this opportunity would be given. Therefore, I would suggest we do not confuse the issue, and that we make the changes which have been suggested by Mr. Nielsen.

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: I think we now have two separate motions; the one I moved at the last sitting of this committee, and the one moved by Mr. Rheame. I would like to have the question put on my motion. I believe it was understood before that we should vote on my particular motion now. Then you may put a second motion. I move that the first question be put now.

Mr. TURNER: If the committee wishes to discuss Mr. Grégoire's motion, I think we are in order to do so before voting.

Mr. KINDT: Mr. Chairman, are we not here to talk about these two problems with regard to the Northwest Territories? If that is so, let us come directly to the point. What we want is to have these representatives down from the north. There should not be any difference of opinion between the people sitting around this table. We want to hear these people from the north. Let us talk about the Northwest Territories first, and then when we have that settled, we can go on with these secondary questions. They may not be secondary in the minds of some people; but I think we should deal with first things first, and we are dealing with the Northwest Territories and the division.

The CHAIRMAN: The Chair would be prepared to submit any motion on which the committee would now feel prepared to vote. I do have two, and the one by Mr. Rheame is not yet amended.

Mr. TURNER: If I understand Mr. Dinsdale and Mr. Nielsen correctly, they would be willing to treat the two subjects separately. This could be accomplished by voting on Mr. Grégoire's motion first; that, after all, is the order in which the motions were presented.

I have a few things to say in respect of Mr. Grégoire's motion. May I do that, Mr. Chairman?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes. The motion is before the committee now.

Mr. TURNER: The substance of Mr. Grégoire's motion is that the two provincial ministers of natural resources from Ontario and Quebec be called on the subject of discussing the provincial boundaries adjacent to the Northwest Territories. If I might refer to Mr. Grégoire's argument before the House of Commons, what he is maintaining is that it is appropriate at the time of

discussion on Bills C-83 and C-84 to discuss the transfer of the islands, the littoral islands, bordering on Hudson bay and Hudson strait to the province of Quebec. I would like to submit to this committee that this question of the outlying borders of the Northwest Territories, as they border on the provinces of Quebec and Ontario, is entirely irrelevant to the discussion of the subject matter of the two bills before us. In other words, the passage of Bill C-83 relating to the Mackenzie Territory and Bill C-84 relating to the new territory of Nunassiatq has absolutely no effect on the status of the islands lying off the northwest coast of Quebec.

These two bills do nothing to change the external boundaries of the territories. They do nothing to the province of Ontario or to the province of Quebec. All these bills do is to divide the territory along the line of the 105th meridian, and then following along Victoria and Banks islands. The Mackenzie bill, in clause (6)—that is Bill C-83—defines the boundaries of the Mackenzie Territory, and all of those boundaries are within the present Northwest Territories.

The Nunassiatq bill provides for a new territory of Nunassiatq to the east which will include the remainder of the territory—that is the remainder of the Northwest Territories as it existed on the 31st of March, 1964. Since the Mackenzie bill does not come into force until April 1, 1964, it is quite clear that all the Nunassiatq bill does is to nominate that part of the territory nearest to the province of Quebec, that is, to define the Nunassiatq territory as being that part of the former Northwest Territories which remain after the subtraction of the Mackenzie Territory.

I refer the committee therefore to clause (6), and clause (29), subclause (1) in Bill C-83, and to clause (3) in Bill C-84 to back up what I am saying.

The external boundaries of the Northwest Territories could not be changed by this bill. In other words, it is impossible for this bill to change the outward frontiers of the Northwest Territories so as to affect the province of Quebec or any other province. I say this because under an early amendment to the British North America Act which was passed on June 29, 1871—I refer to 35-35 Victoria, chapter 28, the provincial boundaries can only be enlarged or otherwise changed by concurrent federal and provincial legislation. I refer to the amendment, section 3.

These bills change nothing so far as the transfer of jurisdiction or of territory from the Northwest Territories as it presently exists to or from the province of Quebec. Moreover, anything that could be done with respect to these islands could be done after these bills are passed. There is no prejudice caused.

Mr. MACINNIS: I accept your argument, but does this mean that you do not want the provincial ministers to appear before this committee?

Mr. TURNER: No, it does not mean that at all.

Mr. MACINNIS: Why do we continue this long discussion on a motion which just asks for the provincial ministers to be called? The decision as to when they shall be called is another matter. Mr. Grégoire's motion could be very easily accepted by this committee. I think the committee should get on to the matters before it in respect to the Northwest Territories, while the decision to call provincial ministers before this committee—or if it is their desire to come before this committee—are matters which could be dealt with at a later date, and they have no pertinency whatsoever at the present time.

Mr. TURNER: In order not to complicate this matter, in order that we may hear representatives from the north without irrelevancies, I urge the committee to vote down Mr. Grégoire's motion which deals with a matter, which I suggest to this committee is not pertinent to the subject matters of these bills. If at a later time, when these bills are disposed of one way or another by the com-

mittee, the committee should wish to examine other things, or related questions, then the committee might do so. The status of these islands is in no way affected by these two bills. All that the bills do is to divide the territory along a designated line.

Mr. MACINNIS: I do not question that. I only question the prolonging of this discussion about a motion which requests the presence of these ministers before this committee. If the motion is put, the committee will then decide when and in what order they want the witnesses to appear.

Mr. MOREAU: This committee is only empowered to discuss and to deal with matters referred to it. At the present time there are two bills dealing with the Northwest Territories. In my opinion before we can call any witnesses for any purpose whatsoever, we must first determine whether their testimony will be relevant to the two bills before us, and I think that is what Mr. Turner is doing.

Mr. MACINNIS: Your argument then is that you wish this committee to turn down even a request from the provincial ministers to appear before this committee at this particular time. In short, you want no part of them.

Mr. MOREAU: Not until these bills are disposed of.

Mr. LÉDUC: The motion is to discuss the limits of the territories. These other things are not in the motion.

The CHAIRMAN: That is the very point the committee is involved in.

Mr. TURNER: In answer to Mr. MacInnis, it is in order to save further discussion and to get down to the pertinent crucial issue of hearing people in the territories on whether they wish the territories to be divided in any way. Therefore I urge the committee to curtail discussion on the issue of the islands, and consider the question of hearing witnesses from the north.

Mr. GRAY: On a point of order, as Mr. Turner has stated, changes in provincial boundaries can only be made in the manner he suggested. I raise the question at this time whether discussion involving changes in the outward boundaries of these territories is in order. I raise the point of order that the motion as presented to us by Mr. Grégoire is not in order because it deals with questions that are beyond the competence of this committee.

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: Speaking to the point of order, if concurrent federal and provincial legislation is needed, then if we hear the provincial ministers, that should make for concurrent of provincial legislation to be enacted by vote. I think Mr. Turner's argument is completely along the line of arguments I would like to use. We are here to discuss the boundaries for two new northwest territories instead of one. It will not affect the boundaries of Canada, and it will not affect the boundaries of Ontario, Nunassiaq, or Quebec. It is not a question of islands, as Mr. Turner's motion mentioned; it is a question of the three mile limit, which is the normal limit anywhere. How can Mr. Turner accept Mr. Pickersgill's comment to us that the committee could and should discuss the problem of these new boundaries? If we have to establish boundaries between Nunassiaq and the province of Ontario and the province of Quebec, surely we may discuss the territory adjacent thereto.

The CHAIRMAN: On the point of order, whether this subject matter which is referred to in your motion is or is not in order, that is what is raised by Mr. Gray. The merits of the three mile limit or whatever other considerations there may be are not in dispute. Can this committee entertain a motion which is before us, to call these gentlemen in respect of the subject matter as indicated in the motion?

Mr. DEACHMAN: I should like to refer to Mr. Grégoire's point of order, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: It was Mr. Gray's point of order.

Mr. DEACHMAN: I am sorry, Mr. Gray's point of order. Mr. Chairman, this is an internal matter dealing with events which are to take place inside the existing boundaries of the Northwest Territories. We are not making alterations to the boundaries adjacent to other provinces or other territories. This includes only an internal change. If the province of Quebec desires to discuss the question of the islands, I suggest this question would come under a discussion of the boundary extension act, of the province.

Under the British North America Act provision is made for the extension of boundaries of a province under the boundary extension act.

In the province of Quebec the boundary extension act of 1912 is an example showing what can be done. If Mr. Grégoire desires to proceed on the question of these islands the course for Mr. Grégoire to follow is to approach the province of Quebec, and the province of Quebec would then go to the federal government and make application under the British North America Act for the extension of the boundaries of Quebec. At that time the Northwest Territories would be brought into the discussions, and the question arising then in respect of the extension of the boundaries of Quebec would have to be dealt with under the boundaries extension act.

Our discussions in this committee do not relate to such an application at all. There is a procedure in existence to take care of the problem to which Mr. Grégoire has referred. I suggest this problem is not relevant to our discussions. Certain procedures are set out covering procedures in this regard, and I may say that these procedures have been followed on many occasions by different provinces.

Mr. DINSDALE: Mr. Chairman, I should like to speak to the point of order Mr. Gray has raised concerning the relevance of this matter.

The last time this question was under discussion, if my memory serves me correctly, was in 1912 in connection with the boundary extension act, at which time not only the provinces of Ontario and Quebec were concerned but also the province of Manitoba. As a matter of fact, I think Manitoba had the greatest complaint because its boundaries were restricted. As a result of the deliberations of that day the Manitoba boundaries were extended to the bay and the northern extremities of the boundaries of the province of Quebec were extended. It would seem to me if this committee is to deal with a question of boundaries there must be a reference of another act from the House of Commons, in which event the province of Manitoba would also be involved. I think it would be most unfortunate for this committee to confuse matters for discussion by the interjection of extraneous discussions at this time.

The immediate concern of this committee is a consideration of the two bills before us in respect of the changes in the administration of the Northwest Territories. I feel that we should deal with these bills now and, at a later date, if a member of the committee wishes to put the question in respect of boundaries before this committee then, of course, that member will have the right to do so.

Mr. KINDT: Mr. Chairman, the Nunassiq territory is residual. I think we should keep that fact in mind. This is an area which is left over after dividing the existing Northwest Territories into two districts. The Nunassiq territory is a residual area, and therefore, since it is a residual area the question to be brought before this committee in respect of the islands which should be attached to Quebec is an entirely different one and should not be confused with the subject matter of the two bills which have been referred to this committee. That is my point of view, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you. I feel that the Chair has received very valuable assistance from the members of this committee. I have given this motion con-

siderable study since last Wednesday. As a result of reading citation 304 of Beauchesne, I am fully convinced that the committee can only consider those matters which have been committed to it by the House of Commons.

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Pickersgill mentioned that this subject was to be considered by this committee.

The CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Mr. GRAY: I think the Chairman should be allowed to complete his remarks.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes. I hope the members of this committee will permit the Chairman to finish.

I have given this matter quite extensive study. The two bills referred to us are bills in respect of the Mackenzie Territory and the Nunassiat territory. If one reads those bills carefully one will see that we are in no way changing the limits of the territories. In other words, the territory involved is exactly the same territory as now included in the Northwest Territories. I suggest all members read page 2, the addendum to clause 6 of the Mackenzie territory bill.

Therefore, the Chair is very positive of the fact that in no way can this committee properly introduce discussions in respect of matters pertaining to the boundary limits between the provinces and the Northwest Territories.

Without expanding this argument any further I feel that this committee should not be called upon to deal with the subject proposed in Mr. Grégoire's motion, and I must, as the Chairman of this committee, declare this motion out of order.

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: Mr. Chairman, are you declaring my motion out of order?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Grégoire.

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: I appeal your decision.

The CHAIRMAN: That is your privilege, Mr. Grégoire.

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: Mr. Chairman, I appeal on the ground that you said the boundaries of the Northwest Territories would not be changed. I suggest to you that once these bills have been adopted there will not be a Northwest Territories as such.

Mr. MOREAU: You cannot appeal the Chairman's decision.

The CHAIRMAN: I draw your attention to a description which has been in existence since 1912 and which will form the basis of the limits of the Northwest Territories when it is divided.

Mr. NIELSEN: Mr. Chairman, citation No. 295 of Beauchesne's fourth edition stipulates there can be no appeal from the ruling of the chairman of a standing committee.

The CHAIRMAN: I appreciate your reference to that citation. Can you give me the number please?

Mr. NIELSEN: It is citation 295, page 240 of Beauchesne's fourth edition.

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: Mr. Chairman, I should like to move an amendment to my motion.

Mr. NIELSEN: The motion has been declared out of order. Mr. Grégoire.

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: Mr. Chairman, I move that the appropriate bill be brought before this committee.

The CHAIRMAN: We already have a motion with which we must deal. I will now entertain the amendment to your motion, Mr. Rheume.

Mr. REAUME: I think the amendment has gone forward, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: Are you withdrawing your previous motion?

Mr. RHEAUME: No, I will not withdraw it but I will amend it.

The CHAIRMAN: We have forms in this regard to be signed.

Mr. RHEAUME: I will change my motion and exclude the three ministers mentioned from payment of expenses.

The CHAIRMAN: Would you be prepared to consider leaving out Judge Sissons as well?

Mr. RHEAUME: No.

Mr. MOREAU: Would you read the amended motion, Mr. Chairman? I am not quite sure what it says.

The CHAIRMAN: I will have to obtain the consent of the mover. The motion now reads that the expenses of all witnesses recommended by the steering committee be paid except the expenses of the ministers of resources for Ontario and Quebec and the minister of northern affairs.

Mr. MOREAU: I understood Mr. Nielsen and Mr. Rheaume agreed that the committee decided what witnesses we are going to hear.

Mr. RHEAUME: We do not have to agree on that because this is the accepted procedure.

The CHAIRMAN: Only the committee can make those decisions. The steering committee is only a helping hand.

Mr. TURNER: I should like to say, on Mr. Rheaume's motion, that I agree with the point made by Mr. Gray that perhaps it would be easier for us if we decided first of all who we wanted to hear, and secondly whether we were going to cover the expenses for all these people.

My second point is on the question of Judge Sissons. This committee, by inviting or compelling Mr. Justice Sissons to appear before this committee would be inviting a number of the judiciary charged with the administration of justice in these territories to comment upon administrative matters going well beyond the realm of justice, to comment upon the division of the territories and to comment upon matters that are not properly within the functions and purview of a judge, perhaps to the embarrassment of himself and perhaps to the embarrassment of the administration of justice. I would ask the mover and the committee to consider very carefully whether Mr. Justice Sissons ought to be put into the compromising position whereby he, as a judge, would enter into a political discussion before this committee. I would urge that the mover consider withdrawing that name in order to exempt a judge from political controversy.

Mr. MACINNIS: Do these witnesses not appear on a voluntary basis?

The CHAIRMAN: We are entitled to summon them, but they can come on their own. The majority come on their own, but some are summoned by us. Of course, a notification will have to be sent.

Mr. MACINNIS: I am sure that if the judge referred to does not wish to come voluntarily this committee is not going to summon him. Therefore, it will be the decision of the judge whether he will appear before this committee and it will be purely voluntary.

The CHAIRMAN: Is the committee prepared for the question?

It is moved by Mr. Rheaume and seconded by Mr. Nielsen that the expenses of all the witnesses recommended by the steering committee be paid except for the ministers of resources for Ontario and Quebec and the minister of northern affairs.

Mr. NIELSEN: Is there not another part to that motion, Mr. Chairman? Is that all of it?

The CHAIRMAN: Those are the words of Mr. Rheaume's motion.

Mr. NIELSEN: The motion should, as well as mentioning the payment of expenses for these witnesses, refer to the calling of them.

The CHAIRMAN: Do you want that separately?

Mr. RHEAUME: The motion could read: "that they be called and that their expenses be paid". It is easy enough to clear that one.

Mr. MOREAU: "Be asked", rather than "be called".

Mr. RHEAUME: Yes, I agree.

The CHAIRMAN: I believe, Mr. Nielsen, you would require another motion to name the witnesses the committee would like to call.

Mr. MACINNIS: Let us have a list of them now.

The CHAIRMAN: Are you positive, Mr. Rhéaume, that your list includes all of them?

The list is as follows: Mr. Robert Williamson, Rankin Inlet, Northwest Territories; Rev. Father Louis Lemer, O.M.I., Cambridge Bay, Northwest Territories; Frobisher bay chamber of commerce, Frobisher bay, Northwest Territories; Judge J. H. Sissons, Yellowknife, Northwest Territories; the port manager of Churchill, Manitoba; Mr. Mark DeWeerd of Yellowknife, Northwest Territories; a representative of the Fort Smith chamber of commerce, Fort Smith, Northwest Territories; a representative of the Yellowknife board of trade, Yellowknife, Northwest Territories and Mr. P. A. C. Nichols of Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Mr. TURNER: We are giving a global approval for the payment of expenses of all these gentlemen without knowing how much we are going to contribute to this. It is going to cost \$500 per man. I feel the committee is going at it a bit cavalierly. Some of these people ought to have their expenses paid; there is no doubt about it. I have grave reservations about how long this list should be. Would the committee be agreeable to setting a time limit as to when these gentlemen should appear?

Mr. KINDT: How many names are on the list now?

The CHAIRMAN: Fourteen.

Mr. MACINNIS: The motion does not include what Mr. Turner referred to, the amount of the expense, nor does it include any time. Any further discussion on this motion is ridiculous. Nobody has a full understanding of it.

The CHAIRMAN: It is not for the Chair to say how ridiculous an argument may be. The motion has been read and I await a discussion. That is the Chair's position.

Mr. MACINNIS: Fifty per cent of the argument that has gone on in this committee is conducted by the Chair.

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: I would like the Chair to be more impartial in this discussion.

Mr. TURNER: I certainly speak on behalf of most members of the committee and I would like to defend the impartiality of the Chair today. We are trying to bring these questions down to the crux of the matter so that members of the committee may know what the vote is all about. It is unfair for members of the committee to accuse the Chairman of a lack of impartiality.

Mr. RHEAUME: If the Chair recognizes arguments on the list that the steering committee has prepared, surely the way for members of the committee to voice objections is by way of a vote against the motion and not by starting to pick out this name or that name. That would take two or three days.

The CHAIRMAN: I agree we should try to limit the discussions to the problem we have. The problem which faces the committee this morning is to find out which people we wish to call before us and the expenses that will be paid. The motion is before us and I will now hear the arguments. If there is no argument, I will put the motion before the committee.

Mr. TURNER: These gentlemen on the list do not all have a representative character, some represent a community but others, such as the port manager from Churchill, Manitoba—who is by the way outside of the Northwest Territories—or Mr. Mark DeWeerdts would come down in their own personal capacity. For these gentlemen to be included in the global motion on expenses would surely be diluting the effect of Mr. Rheaume's motion.

Mr. RHEAUME: On that point, Mr. Chairman, the port manager from Churchill was recommended by Mr. Deachman to the steering committee. That is why he was included.

Mr. TURNER: There is a difference between inviting these gentlemen and subsidizing each one of them. Some of them are representatives while others come in a personal capacity.

Mr. RHEAUME: This gentleman happens to be in Ottawa anyway, which is why his name is included. No expenses would be involved there. He comes in an official capacity. As Mr. Turner probably knows, Churchill and the proposed Nunassiat territory have a great deal in common and it is important that this man be heard. As to the other people, we must remember that the first four witnesses we heard were speaking in their personal capacity since they were not councillors of the Northwest Territories council at the time, their mandate having expired. They can testify as well as any former member of parliament can testify as to what went on when he was a member of parliament.

Mr. TURNER: He can testify as a past representative of the people until another member of parliament is elected.

The CHAIRMAN: We do not know whether it is the past president of the chamber of commerce or the actual president. We trust that they will send the man who is most knowledgeable and one who could enlighten the committee best.

Mr. TURNER: I move an amendment to exclude from this list of expenses Mr. Mark DeWeerdts of the legal firm.

The CHAIRMAN: We have a motion to exclude another name, that of Mr. Mark DeWeerdts.

Mr. NIELSEN: Can I speak on a point of order, Mr. Chairman? Citation 69, subclause (2) on page 235 of Beauchesne's Fourth Edition reads as follows:

(2) The Clerk of the house is authorized to pay out of the contingent fund to witnesses so summoned a reasonable sum per diem during their travel and attendance, to be determined by Mr. Speaker, and a reasonable allowance for travelling expenses.

The point of order is that the house and committees have adopted rules as contained in Beauchesne's which stipulate that certain authority is placed in the Clerk of the house for the payment of expenses and, therefore, I do not think this committee can pass a motion that it would take away this authority which is given to the Clerk of the house.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I spoke with the Clerk on that subject and he told me that the procedure was that the committee would first indicate those witnesses for which they wanted payment of expenses. Of course, the last recourse is to the Speaker and the Clerk of the house.

In my opinion, we are not infringing on the act; this committee has the first responsibility of choosing the proper witnesses which it wishes to call and stating for what witnesses, in their view, expenses should be paid. I obtained this information from the Clerk himself. We are not in the Speaker's or Clerk's office now; we are in committee and I am trying to find out which witnesses you would like to call and for which ones you wish the expenses paid.

Mr. RHEAUME: With permission of the committee and Mr. Nielsen I would be agreeable to deleting Mr. DeWeerd's name from the list in so far as expenses are concerned. Mr. DeWeerd is from the law firm of Searle and DeWeerd.

Mr. TURNER: You can foresee a few difficulties in that particular name.

The CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Rheaume that the expenses of all witnesses recommended by the steering committee be paid with the exception of the minister of resources of Ontario and Quebec, the Minister of Northern Affairs and Mr. DeWeerd, who is not to be called.

An hon. MEMBER: Not to be paid.

Mr. WATSON (*Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): Not to be called.

The CHAIRMAN: We are getting confused again.

Mr. RHEAUME: All right, not to be called.

The CHAIRMAN: Not to be called.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Agreed.

The CHAIRMAN: All in favour of the motion? Those against?

Motion agreed to.

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: Mr. Chairman, I would like to move, seconded by Mr. Rheaume, that the subject matters of the Boundaries Act 1912 be discussed and revised by this committee.

Mr. MOREAU: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman—

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: Before hearing the point of order, Mr. Chairman, I think my motion should be accepted.

The CHAIRMAN: You cannot bring up the same subject matter in a committee which has been dealt with before and that matter has been dealt with.

Mr. GRAY: Mr. Chairman, I have asked to be heard on the point of order.

This refers to whether or not this motion can be accepted and fully discussed in this committee at this time. You will find in Beauchesne's there is a clear precedent to the effect that a committee can consider only what is referred to it by the house, and we know what that is by the order of reference.

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: This has been referred—

Mr. GRAY: Let me finish; I have the floor.

I would suggest that we find out what is referred to us by the house by looking at the order of reference, and I think if you read it you will not see this question discussed. Now, there might be some suggestions as to what was said by certain hon. members of the house but I raise the question whether or not any member of the house, unless he incorporates his views in a formal order which is passed by the house, can impose the obligation upon a committee to discuss anything.

Mr. TURNER: On a further point of order, Mr. Chairman, in my opinion, it is not proper for a committee to decide it will discuss any question other than that which is referred to it by the house.

Mr. NIELSEN: For your further information, it is set out at 304, page 244 of Beauchesne's that a committee can only consider those matters which have been committed to it by the house.

The CHAIRMAN: I referred to that reference previously when I declared the motion of Mr. Grégoire out of order.

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: Can we hear the terms of reference?

The CHAIRMAN: It was read twice. The subject matters are bills C-83 and C-84.

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: Could we have it read again?

The CLERK OF THE COMMITTEE (*French*):

The CHAIRMAN: In English, the terms of reference are that the subject of the bills hereafter named be referred to the committee on mines, forests and waters for examination: (1) bill C-83, to modify the law of the territories of the Northwest, to give to the new territories new statutory law in consequence thereof, and bill C-84, a bill concerning the territory of Nunassiat.

Mr. GRÉGOIRE (*French*):

The CHAIRMAN (*French*):

Mr. GRÉGOIRE (*French*):

Mr. TURNER (*French*):

Some hon. MEMBERS: Translation, please.

Mr. GRÉGOIRE (*French*):

Mr. GRAY (*Interpretation*): It was decided already that all matters outside the territory of the northwest did not come under the concern of the committee; that had been the object of the decision that had already been taken.

Mr. NIELSEN: What did Mr. Grégoire say?

Mr. MOREAU: He said "No".

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: The point I was making, in French to the committee was that you, Mr. Chairman, have ruled out the question of the invitation of the ministers of natural resources, but not in regard to Bills C-83 and C-84. I say that in Bill C-83 and in Bill C-84 you change the Northwest Territory into two territories. This is a reference to what was passed in the 1912 Boundaries Act constituting the Northwest Territories and giving some boundaries to all of this. If in this committee you study a part of the 1912 Boundaries Act, I submit that we must include in our discussion all matters related to this by this act.

I think I expressed myself better in French, but I hope you understand my point.

Mr. GRAY: I think Mr. Grégoire may have misunderstood the point of order I raised during his motion about the ministers of the provinces. The point I was making was not whether those particular ministers should be called; it was in reference to the broader question whether this could possibly be discussed in this committee at this time. I had the impression that you in effect ruled my point was properly taken.

The CHAIRMAN: That is the contention of the Chair at the present time. At the time of Mr. Grégoire's motion, I read the text of Beauchesne and I declared the subject matter of the limits of the boundaries of the Northwest Territories was in no way referred to us in these bills, and I declared it out of order. I further ruled this motion out of order for the same reason that the subject matter it intends to bring in is not referred to this committee. I stated this decision was taken by this committee a short while ago, and we cannot constantly bring back the same motion on a subject matter which the committee has agreed unanimously was out of order.

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: May I ask on what specifically you ruled my motion out of order? Was it because of the subject matter or—

The CHAIRMAN: The subject matter, yes.

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: Then I make another motion with no reference to any subject:

I move that the ministers of national resources of Ontario and Quebec be invited to this committee, without reference to any subject.

The CHAIRMAN: You have the responsibility of advising the committee for what reason you would like the committee to hear their evidence.

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: Concerning the actions of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police of the Northwest Territories.

Mr. MOREAU: What possible right could these gentlemen throw on law enforcement in the territories?

Mr. NIELSEN: Mr. Justice Sissons will do that.

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: I move that.

Mr. RHÉAUME: I second the motion.

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: I would like to ask you to put on record that our party, being entitled to only one member on this committee, has to get some seconders from other parties.

The CHAIRMAN: I would not like to have that in the record because, as I read the list, there are three members of your group on this committee.

Mr. NIELSEN: May I suggest, while any rulings you might make as to motions made by Mr. Grégoire, and other members on the subject of boundaries is one thing, you do not make any premature rulings on what may or may not be relevant in any future discussions so far as boundaries are concerned. I have some doubt about that view myself and I would not like to see you make rulings now until the committee has reached the stage where an attempt is made to discuss these particular problems. That stage has not yet been reached.

The CHAIRMAN: To safeguard your doubts, Mr. Nielsen, I am happy to restate that my rulings that the motion of Mr. Grégoire is not in order is based on the fact that it does not come within the subject matter of the committee's reference. If the house refers matters which may be relevant to boundaries, I would be most pleased to entertain a motion pertaining to that at the proper time, but I am making my ruling today on the reference which we now have.

Mr. HERRIDGE: I cannot resist pointing out that you have established a precedent. It is the first time in my experience in Ottawa, which extends over nearly 19 years, that I have heard such a ruling. You have repudiated the word of the minister of the crown, given to the house on behalf of the government.

The CHAIRMAN: In what way?

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: Because of the commitment of the Secretary of State.

The CHAIRMAN: I know I am apt to make mistakes, but I like to know what they are.

Mr. TURNER: I would like to speak to that point.

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: First, I have a motion.

Mr. TURNER: I am entitled to speak. If Mr. Herridge has an elephantine memory—

Mr. RHÉAUME: Elephant-like.

Mr. TURNER: Let us say a trunk for a good point. He will recall that Mr. Pickersgill's, the minister of the crown to whom I assume he is referring, commitment to this committee was that he would refer the subject matters of these bills to the committee, and that was his only commitment.

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: No. Read your *Hansard*.

Mr. TURNER: That was his only commitment.

Mr. RHÉAUME: Specifically, the problem of the islands.

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: Specifically the problems of the islands; that was his statement.

The CHAIRMAN: There are two or three quotations, but I think this is the one to which you refer:

I would be quite prepared to give an undertaking that in some fashion or other this matter would be remitted to a committee so that

the matters the hon. member wishes to raise could be raised, if that is satisfactory.

Mr. TURNER: "...if that is satisfactory."

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: Read what was the question I asked the minister which resulted in an answer like this, and then you will see what was his commitment.

The CHAIRMAN: It is four pages long. I read it through at least twice and I can tell you that the gist of it was that Mr. Pickersgill was making a request of the house to have the bills read so that they may be referred to the council of the Northwest Territories in July, and of course, Mr. Grégoire brought up the matter that he wanted the limits discussed and the islands. Mr. Pickersgill said that he was undertaking that the bills would be referred to a proper committee where he can bring up any matter he wishes. But Mr. Pickersgill, I am sure, did not intend that anything which any member might wish to bring before this committee would be in order.

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: We will bring it up in the house.

Mr. KINDT: May I ask when the next meeting will be called, and, secondly, when the witnesses, in the order in which they will be called, will appear? We cannot hear them all at one time. Will the steering committee undertake this?

The CHAIRMAN: Only to a limited degree; yes. I have looked over the sittings of the various committees, and I feel we could entertain a decision to have sittings at these times: Mondays at 3.30 p.m. and 8 o'clock; Wednesdays at nine, to break off at 11 a.m., and then again at 3.30 p.m.; Fridays at 9 a.m. to break off at 11 a.m. I can advise the committee that the other days are rather loaded with committee meetings. On Tuesdays and Thursdays there are five and six committees in the mornings and in the afternoons.

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: Mr. Chairman, there is a motion.

The CHAIRMAN: The motion is that the ministers of natural resources of Ontario and Quebec be called by this committee.

Mr. GRAY: I suggest this be studied by the steering committee and a report be brought before us at the next meeting.

The CHAIRMAN: Would that be agreeable to the committee?
Suggestion agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN: Now, would it be in order to call a meeting for Friday morning at nine o'clock. We have people in Ottawa who are readily available.

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: If we will start the next meeting with my motion.

The CHAIRMAN: Is the committee agreeable to meet at nine o'clock on Friday morning?

Agreed.

The committee adjourned.



EVIDENCE

FRIDAY, December 6, 1963.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, I see a quorum, therefore I call the meeting to order.

I would like to bid good morning to the members of the mines, forests and waters committee and I beg the indulgence of the committee because, as so often happens, I have certain small matters to bring before the members before we proceed with the business proper of the meeting today.

Mr. Howard has been named to replace Mr. Herridge on the committee. I would like the Clerk to inform the committee that this has now been arranged and that Mr. Howard will be receiving the notices instead of Mr. Herridge. Apparently this was done in error, but I feel the committee lost nothing because Mr. Herridge's points of view were heard by the committee. It does present the problem, however, that Mr. Herridge had accepted my invitation to serve on the steering committee because he did not know of the arrangements which had been made. I asked Mr. Howard if he would replace Mr. Herridge. I would like the committee's approval.

Mr. Deachman has indicated to me that he would appreciate it if the committee would agree that Mr. Turner should replace him on the steering committee.

I ask the committee's concurrence in these arrangements.

Agreed.

Some of the people it has been suggested the committee should call as witnesses live a great distance from Ottawa. It is felt, therefore, that we should establish a regular schedule of meetings so that the Chairman or the Clerk may wire these witnesses in rational order to prevent a situation in which all these witnesses might arrive and have to stay for many days before being heard.

The schedules of committees are very heavy and I am informed by the Clerk that the least congested times would be Monday afternoon, Wednesday morning and Wednesday afternoon and Friday morning. If the committee were to accept those times it would mean that we would have a schedule of four meetings a week.

Agreed.

The CHAIRMAN: Therefore the committee will meet on Monday afternoon, Wednesday morning before caucus, Wednesday afternoon and Friday morning before the meeting of the house.

I would like direction of the committee to wire the witnesses whom we intend to call. I have received a communication from one of these witnesses and I took the liberty of wiring him in return that the committee had approved the suggestion that his testimony be heard and that his expenses be paid, and I told him that further information would be communicated to him as to the time of his appearance. Other than this, no witness has been notified.

Is the committee agreed that we should instruct the Clerk to wire all the gentlemen on the list that we have to the effect that their testimony will be heard on the subject of the bill and that their expenses will be paid, and that they will be notified of the time when they should be available in Ottawa?

Mr. RHEAUME: If the committee so wishes, I will be glad to sit down with the Clerk and assist him in terms of air line schedules, which are a complicating factor in this case.

The CHAIRMAN: I believe you are familiar with the witnesses and their whereabouts. Could you suggest which three, for example, should be heard first?

Mr. RHEAUME: As long as the committee will give me general approval I will be happy to sit down and go over this matter with the Clerk and the Chairman. I am afraid I cannot give you the information offhand.

The CHAIRMAN: Is it agreed that these witnesses shall be told that their expenses have been approved and that Mr. Rheaume should discuss the matter of further arrangements with the Clerk?

Mr. WATSON (*Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): I think we should make it clear with regard to the chambers of commerce who are going to come down from the Northwest Territories that we want to hear concrete evidence in regard to the Northwest Territories, not merely that they need more business.

Mr. RHEAUME: I think if we ask them intelligent questions we will receive intelligent answers.

The CHAIRMAN: They will be witnesses and they will answer questions put to them by the committee, so the responsibility lies with the committee.

Mr. TURNER: In the telegrams that are sent to the witnesses I suggest the Clerk be careful in his wording as to expenses being covered, because the expenses are still subject to confirmation by the Clerk of the house and by the Speaker. I suggest that it is merely stated that the committee will be prepared to pay expenses to an amount allowed by the rules of the house and determined by the Speaker, if it is necessary to put some sort of caveat on it. It ought not to be indicated in the wire that they are going to have their expenses covered.

The CHAIRMAN: The Clerk informs me that the usual wording is "reasonable and usual living and travelling expenses".

Agreed.

The meeting is now open for whatever business there is.

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: I think, Mr. Chairman, we had a motion on hand when we adjourned at the last sitting.

The CHAIRMAN: That is correct. Will the Clerk read the motion which was before the committee.

The CLERK: The motion of Mr. Grégoire, seconded by Mr. Rheaume is:

That the ministers of national resources of the provinces of Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec be called by this committee.

Both the mover and the seconder agreed to let the motion stand until the steering committee considered it and reported to the main committee.

The CHAIRMAN: Does anyone care to speak to the motion before the committee?

Mr. MACINNIS: Is it not rather difficult to speak to the motion owing to the fact that the last comment the Clerk made was that it was agreed to let the motion stand until we had a full report from the steering committee?

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: When we finished our last meeting there was a great deal of noise but I never understood it was to be studied by the steering committee before coming here. There was no mention about that.

Mr. DEACHMAN: May we have the minutes on that subject read to us?

The CHAIRMAN: You would like the report of the proceedings?

Mr. DEACHMAN: I would like to hear the verbatim report of the meeting if it is available. That will clear up the point as to what was said.

The CHAIRMAN: I think we should have that since there is some confusion as to the last words in the minutes.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, we now have the reporter's transcript of the meeting that we were discussing, and also we were discussing the sittings of the committee, about which I had made some remarks. I believe that should bring the committee up to date. Mr. Grégoire brought up the matter.

The CLERK OF THE COMMITTEE: I read:

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: Mr. Chairman, there is a motion.

The CHAIRMAN: The motion is that the ministers of natural resources of Ontario and Quebec be called by this committee.

Mr. GRAY: I suggest this be studied by the steering committee and a report be brought before us at the next meeting.

The CHAIRMAN: Would that be agreeable to the committee?

Suggestion agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN: Now, would it be in order to call a meeting for Friday morning at nine o'clock. We have people in Ottawa who are readily available.

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: If we will start the next meeting with my motion.

The CHAIRMAN: Is the committee agreeable to meeting at nine o'clock on Friday morning?

Agreed.

—The committee adjourned.

Mr. DEACHMAN: Yes, but your motion was not agreed to by Mr. Grégoire, and there is nothing on the record to indicate that anybody even knew of it.

Mr. RHEAUME: The suggestion was that it go first to the steering committee before being considered by this committee. But the steering committee was not called.

Mr. DEACHMAN: I think it should first go to the steering committee; otherwise we would be upsetting everything that we had passed.

Mr. RHEAUME: All the steering committee could do would be to send it back to this committee. That is all they could do.

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: As I said a moment ago, when it was the time of adjournment, somebody proposed it; but with all the noise going on I did not hear that it was to be referred back to the steering committee before being brought up here. My understanding was that it would be the first subject for study at the next sitting of this committee.

Mr. MACINNIS: The last two statements in the minutes are rather vague. I refer to the suggestion that we refer it to the steering committee, and then starts the next meeting with Mr. Grégoire's motion.

The CHAIRMAN: It was agreed that the next meeting be at nine o'clock today. It does not say anything about the first item of business being Mr. Grégoire's motion.

Mr. MACINNIS: Would you mind re-reading that statement please?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, would you?

The CLERK OF THE COMMITTEE:

Mr. GRAY: I suggest this be studied by the steering committee and a report be brought before us at the next meeting.

The CHAIRMAN: Would that be agreeable to the committee?

Suggestion agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN: Now, would it be in order to call a meeting for Friday morning at nine o'clock. We have people in Ottawa who are readily available.

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: If we will start the next meeting with my motion.

The CHAIRMAN: Is the committee agreeable to meet at nine o'clock on Friday morning?

Agreed.

Mr. MACINNIS: There is my argument. You have two statements there following Mr. Grégoire's motion, one in which it is indicated that the steering committee must study it before bringing it back to this committee, and the final statement in the minutes refers to the fact that Mr. Grégoire has on record, and the committee records show, that the last remark made was to the effect that this meeting today should start with his motion. There is nothing to indicate that the committee did not agree with it. Granted there is nothing there to say that they did; however, that statement is in the record, and you have to go along with what has been placed in the record. If there was any objection to what Mr. Grégoire said at the time, then it should have been registered in the minutes. So you do not have a choice.

Mr. TURNER: That is a rather unusual proposition to say that unless you are alert enough to object to all Mr. Grégoire's statements, you are agreeing to them.

Mr. MACINNIS: You are making use of Mr. Grégoire's arguments. I say that what is in the minutes is what is official, and it is officially stated in the minutes and it was recorded that a member of this committee said that the meeting would start with his motion, and there is nothing in the minutes to indicate that there was any dissent.

Mr. WATSON (*Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): May we not bring this matter back before this committee and dispose of it now?

The CHAIRMAN: I am agreeable. The steering committee is not the full committee. We are aware of the fact that Mr. Herridge was on the steering committee representing the N.D.P., but he is not officially on this committee. I discussed the matter with Mr. Howard and Mr. Howard did not indicate to me that he could be a member of the steering committee. That leaves Mr. Martin. I may have to see the party whip. I would like the steering committee to have full representation. I would be prepared to have a meeting this afternoon. We are aware of the difficulty that the clerk did not have Mr. Howard on this committee, and that Mr. Herridge sat both on this committee and the steering committee without knowing, himself, that he had been replaced by Mr. Howard.

Mr. MACINNIS: It would appear that this particular meeting this morning cannot do any business, so there is no point in sitting. Under the circumstances, the suggestion is that we must first deal with the business of the steering committee, but the steering committee has not as required met and reported back to this committee. Therefore there is no point in our going on with this meeting.

Mr. DEACHMAN: This committee has power. It is a plenary committee, and it has power to do anything it wants. It can revoke what was done; that is, the decision to refer the matter to the steering committee. You called this meeting today for nine o'clock and now it is almost 9.45 a.m. We have witnesses that we could hear this morning. What are we to do? We could spend an-

other half hour on this argument. I suggest we agree to call the witnesses and get on with our work.

The CHAIRMAN: Is there not a motion?

Mr. WATSON (*Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): I move that we bring back this matter of Mr. Grégoire's motion before the full committee.

The CHAIRMAN: We are the full committee right now.

Mr. DEACHMAN: Yes, we are the full committee.

Mr. WATSON (*Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): Then is it necessary to make a motion?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, I would appreciate having a motion.

Mr. WATSON (*Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): I move that Mr. Grégoire's motion at the last meeting be referred back to the main committee for decision this morning.

The CHAIRMAN: I do not follow you. We are here, and the motion is here before this committee.

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: All right, question!

Mr. TURNER: I am going to argue against Mr. Grégoire's motion, and I am going to put in resume form the same argument I made last time, and also put some others on why I do not think this motion should be considered, but voted down. It is quite clear from Mr. Grégoire's speeches, in the House of Commons, and from his earlier motions before this committee, that the reason he wishes the gentlemen to appear before this committee is to discuss—

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I do not think he can make any assumption about my motion. If we are discussing my motion, we must stick to the motion and not to intentions which I might have.

Mr. TURNER: In answer to that, the Chairman and the committee are endeavouring to learn from Mr. Grégoire the purpose of these gentlemen appearing before the committee. Just as Mr. Rheame was kind enough to give to the committee the reason he wishes to call certain residents of the north country, I think the committee is entitled to know why Mr. Grégoire wants these gentlemen to appear.

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: You have my motion!

Mr. TURNER: Mr. Grégoire is not willing to reply, I think the committee is entitled to assume that in accordance with his past arguments before the house and before this committee, the reason he wishes to invite the three provincial ministers to come before the committee is to have them testify with respect to the border, and the island problem having to do with Hudson Bay, and the boundary line with respect to the provincial and federal frontiers up in the Northwest Territories. That being so, I want to summarize the arguments I made against that.

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: I think he is presuming there that at the last meeting I gave the reasons. If the clerk of the committee wants to read them back he may do so.

The CHAIRMAN: We are proposing to invite some 12 to 15 witnesses presented by various members of this committee. We are to notify them with the qualification that their testimony will be on the subject of the two bills, and that their expenses have been approved. Could the committee not request that the three witnesses now suggested be invited on the same terms?

Mr. MACINNIS: For the sake of clarity in the minutes, for the second time this morning the same obvious mistake has been made. You made reference to the fact that the testimony has been approved. No testimony has been approved because the witnesses have not even appeared before the committee as yet.

The CHAIRMAN: These witnesses were approved by a definite vote of this committee. That is what I meant. That is all there is implied in it. These people were approved as proper witnesses before this committee on these two bills, and their expenses to come here to testify have also been approved. That is the only import to it. This was the wish of the committee, and that was the only way we could invite these people to testify here.

Mr. TURNER: I am objecting at this point to the three witnesses suggested by Mr. Grégoire appearing before the committee.

Mr. DINSDALE: If I might interject, I would suggest that if we vote right now it would expedite matters.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes.

Mr. TURNER: I am not prepared to surrender my right to argue on the motion unless Mr. Dinsdale wishes to place arguments before the committee, in which event I would yield the floor to him.

Mr. DINSDALE: I merely suggested that we have a vote on it right now.

Mr. TURNER: If that should happen, then I would lose my opportunity to make my argument. I would have no opportunity to make my argument after the motion. Unless Mr. Dinsdale wishes to clarify the committee on the position his group is going to take on the matter, then I would be willing to yield the floor to him on that assumption.

Mr. DINSDALE: I do not think I would like to suggest that we would vote as a group.

Mr. RHEAUME: We are all independent thinkers!

Mr. TURNER: That being so, and recognizing the humour of Mr. Rheaume's last remarks, I shall continue with my argument. Mr. Grégoire is in the position that he can give this house and this committee the background on why he wants these gentlemen called. I take it to be on the question of the borders situation. But if that is not his purpose, then it is a motion of privilege to ask us, because he was objecting to the fact that this committee allegedly did not give him a hearing on that very subject. So I suggest that Mr. Grégoire is caught on the horns of a dilemma.

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: You are only speaking in terms of "if".

Mr. TURNER: I would appreciate it if I might be allowed to continue my argument. I am speaking on a legitimate point of order.

The suggestion that Mr. Grégoire wants these gentlemen to be called to testify on the border question supports Mr. Grégoire's former argument in the house and before the committee. Or, if they are not, then he has no point of privilege, because the subject he was discussing in the house was not relevant to the witnesses. I would think, judging from Mr. Grégoire's smile, that I have a sufficient answer for a moment to proceed. I am going to argue that this question of the border between the Northwest Territories and the provinces has nothing whatever to do with the bills before this committee. I am willing and anxious, if the question should come up, to introduce evidence from the Department of Justice to substantiate the legal arguments I made before this committee on Wednesday. In summary, they are as follows:

- (a) the bills do not change the external boundaries of the present Northwest Territories, but rather simply divide the Territories into two new units. The Mackenzie Bill defines the boundaries of the Mackenzie Territory—all of which is within the present Northwest Territories—and the Nunassiat Bill provides that this new territory shall include all the remainder of the Northwest Territories "as they existed on the 31st day of March, 1964".

Since this legislation would not come into effect until then, all we are doing is cutting the apple in half. Mr. Grégoire is arguing that by cutting the apple in half, we are changing the volume of the apple.

Mr. RHEAUME: He wants to peel the apple. Can you answer that.

Mr. DEACHMAN: We knew there was a worm in it.

Mr. TURNER:

- (b) the external boundaries of the Northwest Territories could not be changed by this bill. Under an early amendment to the British North America Act (34-35 Victoria c. 28 of June 29, 1871) provincial boundaries can only be enlarged or otherwise changed by concurrent federal and provincial legislation.

There has been no approach made to the house or to the government or to this committee by Quebec.

- (c) Accordingly, the present bills change nothing as far as the possible transfer of jurisdiction over the islands is concerned. Anything that could be done now can be done after the bills pass, in precisely the same way. The legislation neither strengthens nor prejudices the legal or constitutional claims of the provincial or federal government to jurisdiction over this territory.

There is no prejudice to accepting Mr. Grégoire's claim over these islands by virtue of these bills before us. Mr. Grégoire the house mentioned an alleged commitment made by the Secretary of State in the house. The Secretary of State declared that he was willing to testify before this committee upon invitation. I have read the transcript in *Hansard* as often as my friend Mr. Grégoire, I think, and referring to the testimony of October 11 on that, the Secretary of State in my opinion agreed to do so, to allow the committee to discuss any matter that any member wished to bring before the committee. The Secretary of State could not bind the committee on what the committee decided was in order before it, because the committee is bound under the rules of this house by the terms of reference that is committed to it. The committee can only consider those matters that have been committed to it by the house. I refer to citation 304 in Beauchesne. What are the terms of reference? The terms of reference as set forth in the minutes of proceedings on the first page. The terms of reference were drafted by Mr. Baldwin, the member for Peace River. They were drafted in order to oblige Mr. Rheaume. The terms read:

Friday, November 15, 1963. Ordered that the subjects dealt with in the following bills be referred to the standing committee on mines, forests and waters for consideration: first, Bill C-83, an act to amend the Northwest Territories Act and to rename the said territories and to effect certain consequential changes in the standard law with respect thereto. Second, Bill C-84, an act respecting the Nunassiaq Territory.

The Chairman at the last meeting decided that the matters referred by Mr. Grégoire affecting the frontiers or borders of the Northwest Territories were not subjects to be dealt with in connection with the following bills. In other words, the Chairman decided that the matters which Mr. Grégoire wished to bring before the committee were not pertinent to it. I suggest to the committee that the Secretary of State in allowing the committee to be set up, or in proposing the committee should be set up, accepted, as did every other group in the house, the unanimous motion of Mr. Baldwin which in its terms gave the committee jurisdiction to govern itself under its own rules and proceedings, and to decide what matters it wished to hear.

I am not going to suggest that the Chairman make any ruling on whether it is out of order or not, but to give the committee a chance to vote on the issue. I have noted there have been no protests or any claim from Quebec, although Mr. Grégoire comes from that province, as do quite a few other members, including myself. And we feel it is within the jurisdiction of the province to make its own claim as a provincial government on the federal government, and that would be under the boundaries act, a separate piece of legislation not before this committee. Then the federal government could decide whether or not to enter into negotiations with Quebec, or with Ontario on this matter. It is not a matter which is relevant before this committee. Under the federal constitution we have no power to amend this act.

The position of the former government was quite clear. There was a speech on September 27, 1962, calling for the introduction of this legislation, and before the Northwest territorial council in January of 1963 there was a letter dated January 2 addressed to the commissioner of the Northwest territorial council from Mr. Dinsdale, and this was tabled. It is a public document and it said that legislation should be prepared in accordance with the wishes of the Northwest territorial council. And it was in accordance with it that this legislation was inherited from the former administration.

The minister has made it clear that he was prepared on behalf of the government to fulfil commitments made by the earlier administration to the Northwest territorial council. We have heard representations from three former elected representatives of the Northwest Territories approve the legislation and its terms. Indeed, at the session in July, the Northwest territorial council unanimously approved the legislation. The purpose of it is to further the development and administration in the north, and to increase the representatives of the government in the north. The reason I am opposing Mr. Grégoire's motion and the purpose for which he is making it is that I want to see these bills proceeded with in order to accord the people of the north what they may want.

Mr. Grégoire suggests that we bring people down here to testify. That is perfectly relevant, but what Mr. Grégoire has suggested would add nothing to the consideration of these bills. So I suggest that if Mr. Grégoire's motion is upheld, and if these witnesses are invited to testify on the only subjects that Mr. Grégoire has been interested in since these two bits of legislation were introduced on July 8, this committee will be opening itself to testimony on an irrelevant subject so far as these two bills are concerned, and on a subject which this committee could not consider because it would be unconstitutional.

I am going to ask for a recorded vote, man for man, on this motion of Mr. Grégoire's, because it is my respectful submission that by passing this motion at this time, while these two bills are before the committee, we would be acting to the prejudice of the two bills affecting our Northwest Territories, and it would retard the growth of representative government in the north.

MR. DINDALE: Mr. Turner in his statement made reference to myself, so I think I had better add one word. It is quite true that the present government inherited the principle of the legislation from the former government. I suppose this is true of most legislative matters which have come before the House of Commons at the current session. It is either a continuation of the bills of the former government, or something brought about as a result of an enlargement of them. But it is impossible for me to say whether the exact terms of the present legislation are in the precise form in which it might have been brought down had there been no change in government.

At the same time I think I should bring it to the attention of the committee that we had also made commitments which came about as a result of representations from the Yellowknife community, and also representations from the

newly formed chamber of commerce in Frobisher bay. We had made a commitment that we would call the committee together to consider legislation before it would be approved by the House of Commons. We did not place any reservations on the nature of the discussion that would take place in committee. Certainly in committee discussion has to be relevant to the contents of the bills referred to the committee by the House of Commons. The reason we gave this commitment in addition to what I have already given, was that of representations from the mayor and council of Yellowknife and the chamber of commerce at Frobisher bay and there had been a major change in the political state of the Northwest Territories particularly the eastern Arctic in the past two years.

It will be recalled that the franchise was given to the eastern Arctic, so that some of the residents of Baffin island were voting for the first time steadily in 1962 and again in 1963. And having tasted of the fruits of the federal vote, it was to be anticipated that there would be a certain anomaly in the fact that they did not have the territorial vote. It seems to me that this changes the situation in relation to our consideration of these two bills considerably, and it is a change which came about as federal enfranchisement in the eastern Arctic. Now, Mr. Turner has suggested that we have a polled vote in this committee. I do not know if under the rules that is possible. I do not think it is necessary. This committee, I think, if it is going to be most useful and helpful in dealing with problems of the north, problems that have increased considerably as result of developments and changes which have taken place there during recent years, it will not be serving its purpose if we narrow our scope of consideration too much.

There is no reason why any problem which bears upon northern development could not at least be discussed in this committee. The committee does not have to commit itself, or the house, or the government to anything. But certainly if there are problems arising, the place to clear up the difficulty and to achieve some basis of understanding is within the confines of this committee.

It seems to me that it would prevent further delay in the House of Commons when the bills finally come back to that body for consideration. Here is the place to sort out misunderstandings, should a problem arise; and if there are certain members of the committee who want information on specific points, we can bring departmental officials before this committee who are very competent in all areas relating to northern development. Here is where we can meet face to face and prevent later confusion in the House of Commons.

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: I would like to add a few words. I think we must not try to avoid the real issue before this committee. I would like to separate distinctly the arguments invoked by Mr. Turner. I will not use any "ifs". I would bring the arguments one after the other. There are two reasons why I think we should have this committee study the problem I mentioned. The first one is the commitment made by the house leader on July 8. The house leader, a minister of the crown, wanted to have this legislation approached concerning both bills C-83 and C-84 passed without debate. We accepted, but under one condition, that these problems which we will not bring into the house would be studied here in committee, and these commitments are firm. I mentioned some the other day, or a few days ago.

Mr. TURNER: On a point of order, I think that if Mr. Grégoire is going to pursue the argument which he raised, then as a matter of privilege the Secretary of State should be invited by the committee while the arguments are being made.

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: All right.

Mr. TURNER: I think that would be only fair.

The CHAIRMAN: Well, it comes to the mind of the Chair that in debating

a motion before the committee, references are made to points of privilege. Of course I realize that possibly there is some reason why the mind thinks of both at the same time. But the point of privilege of a particular member of the committee or of the House of Commons, I do not think can be solved by the committee on mines, forests and waters although I realize that maybe references to the problem can be placed before the committee.

I have read all I could on the matter, and I do not see how the committee on mines, forests and waters can decide on the privilege of a member of the committee, or have a view in that category. Of course I say this without making any ruling of any sort. But I think that is the problem. I believe we were at the point where we were dealing with a motion before us having to do with the testimony of certain people. Of course, in that case the members were asked about, and were happy to give the subject matter of the testimony which they were offering to the committee, and the committee made a proper decision.

I also realize that in looking at this motion which has been given to the committee, that the purpose of the evidence is not given, so I would like, as chairman, to leave the matter in the hands of the committee, and that they consider the problem in their minds and proceed with the motion which they have and complete it, so that we may carry on with other work of the committee.

Mr. MACINNIS: I have one word. I have not had too many opportunities to cross the Nova Scotia border, but it is my understanding that should the boundaries of any province be mentioned, then Mr. Grégoire's motion would definitely be in order. So I call your attention to the fact that the province of Quebec boundary is mentioned in the bill.

The CHAIRMAN: Would you mind explaining?

Mr. MACINNIS: The Bill is self-explanatory. When it describes the electoral districts, reference is made to the province of Quebec.

Mr. TURNER: I think it mentioned that the Northwest Territories is on the border of the province of Quebec.

Mr. MACINNIS: It thereby brings in the province of Quebec.

Mr. TURNER: You have to outline a territory by reference to something.

Mr. MACINNIS: In order to avoid the use of the province of Quebec, to defeat Mr. Grégoire's motion, they could have used the words "provinces of Canada". Nevertheless the province of Quebec is definitely mentioned, and there is definite mention made in the bill to Manitoba, Ontario, and British Columbia. Therefore since these provinces are mentioned in the bill I think there is some merit to the fact that the provincial authorities should be called—and I am not necessarily saying the minister of resources—or whatever the case may be—but nevertheless these provinces are specifically mentioned throughout the bill.

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: I would like to finish my argument. Let us say that there is this question of a commitment, and that following Mr. Turner's suggestion we might call Mr. Pickersgill while we discuss the problem.

Mr. TURNER: If Mr. Grégoire wants to go on with his argument, I will make reservation of my right to reply to it on a question of privilege.

The CHAIRMAN: You mean if Mr. Grégoire should proceed with his reference to Mr. Pickersgill?

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: On page 1967 of the English *Hansard* for July 8, 1963, I asked Mr. Pickersgill would the committee be set up as follows:

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: If this committee were set up before the bill is presented, I would accept the proposal.

In discussing the resolution I was deprived of one of my rights to discuss the resolution when I might have made some recommendations to the government, because of a special commitment from the house leader, who answered me as follows.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: I do not think it would be possible to sit before the bill is presented, but I am sure we could make some arrangements to have the matter considered before the bill is proceeded with. What we want to get is the first reading of the bill so that it can be seen by the Northwest Territories council; but we would not proceed to second reading for a good long time. I would be quite prepared to give an undertaking that in some fashion or other this matter would be remitted to a committee so that the matters the hon. member wishes to raise could be raised, if that is satisfactory.

And then your minister said:

Mr. LAING: Might I point out to the hon. member for Lapointe that we are particularly anxious to have the resolution stage passed so that we can get a copy of the bill for study during the summer, to present it to the council that is now meeting at Inuvik. It is particularly desirous that a copy should be released to them for study. I might point out to the hon. member that while he protests the possibility of certain measures being contained in the bill, when he sees the bill he might be entirely satisfied. Certainly the production of the bill, which we would like to produce tonight, is a prelude to any study by the committee. I would confirm the undertaking given by the house leader that we will have a committee set up suitable to the hon. member where these matters can be discussed.

So we agreed to let the resolution pass and have the bill presented to the house. But if we had brought forward our suggestions before the bill was presented, perhaps we might have been able to present an amended bill before the house.

Then there was a former commitment on October 11, when Mr. Pickersgill said at page 3469.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: Mr. Speaker, there is absolutely no question that I did make a very precise commitment and I intend to carry out that commitment if there is any insistence on the part of any hon. member that I do so. The commitment was to refer a specific matter, namely the frontiers, to the consideration of the committee before we proceed with the bill.

And that was the minister of the crown. So that is the first point. I was deprived of one of my rights to discuss a proposed resolution because I accepted their offer. I accepted their bill. I think it is clear-cut to you.

On the second point, let me say that there are other problems we would like to have discussed with the provincial ministers of natural resources and northern affairs of each province, such as Eskimo affairs. There is some travelling done from the north of Quebec or Ontario or Manitoba into the territories, and they have to deal with the R.C.M.P. at Frobisher bay when coming to Quebec, and such problems. And there is another point: it is true it simply splits the Northwest Territories; but when you split it, you take away the name and everything that now exists in the Northwest Territories, even the name of the Northwest Territories. You then have two new names, two new kinds of governments, and two territories completely new. So I

think it is time, when you dissolve the Northwest Territories and form a new territory that we should discuss all the problems relevant to it. We say that it needs joint federal and provincial legislation. There was no approach made to the province of Quebec. Mr. Turner said that. That is exactly another good reason why we should bring the minister of national resources of those three provinces here, to see if there is to be the same approach, to see if they intend to make the same approach, and to see if they would like to have joint federal-provincial legislation in connection with the new boundaries. At the time we constitute a territory is when we should discuss these problems, not after. I think this point has also to be considered. I sincerely submit, it is important that this committee, after the commitment involved and the problem raised in that legislation, which were mentioned by Mr. Dinsdale, that we should invite those three ministers plus one from the federal government.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

Mr. WATSON (*Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): I agree with Mr. Grégoire, I think a commitment was made to him and to his party—

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: And to the house.

Mr. WATSON (*Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): —that this matter be discussed in this committee. I do not think that the terms of reference under which we are operating now include a discussion of what you want to undertake. So may I suggest that we ask our Chairman to ask the house for the terms of reference which would allow us, after we have discussed these two bills, to discuss the matters you wish to discuss. That might be a way out of it.

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: Not after we discuss these bills, but when we are discussing these two bills, because this is all related. I see here another paragraph where Mr. Pickersgill was speaking about it. I refer to page 1968 where he said as follows:

Mr. PICKERSGILL: I will give the hon. gentleman the assurance I have already given the hon. member for Lapointe, that once these two bills are seen, if there is any demand from any quarter of the house that some of the matters in the bills or other matters related to them could usefully be reviewed by a committee, I will undertake to ask my colleagues to have this done, and I feel sure they would agree with me. In fact I am quite prepared to commit the government to putting a motion on the order paper for a reference to a suitable standing committee of the house to consider these matters before we proceed with the legislation itself.

Mr. TURNER: May I reply to Mr. Grégoire?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes.

Mr. TURNER: On this question of commitment, I have read the statements that Mr. Grégoire has read. The commitment reads like this, and I am referring to page 3469 of *Hansard*, the same page which Mr. Grégoire cited and it reads as follows:

Mr. PICKERSGILL: . . . But if the hon. member or any other hon. member wishes to insist that the matters raised in the debates, that is to say, the question of the frontiers of the territories, should be considered separately first by a committee, I will endeavour to consult with whoever raises objection; the hon. member for Lapointe or anyone else, and try to draft some kind of motion to refer the matter to some suitable committee and bring it forward for debate.

The motion was drafted by the member for Peace River, Mr. Baldwin, and it was agreed to unanimously by the house. Mr. Pickersgill's commitment was to allow the matters to be discussed before this committee, and they have been discussed for over two hours on Wednesday, and for about an hour already

today. The minister can provide the vehicle for the committee to discuss something, but the minister cannot commit the committee to do so. Mr. Grégoire says that not only should he be allowed a discussion but that the commitment goes so far as to force the committee to agree with what he is saying.

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: No.

Mr. TURNER: Well, seeing that Mr. Pickersgill agreed only to give him his day in court before the committee, are we to suppose that this would render relevant anything which Mr. Grégoire might want to bring up? Even if Mr. Pickersgill wanted to do that—which he did not—knowing the system, the committee is justified in deciding under its terms of reference what is relevant and what is not. I am saying that what Mr. Grégoire wants to bring up is not appropriate, having regard to the subject matter for discussion before the committee. I say this is an attempt to try to force a committee of a house to deal with business before it and in so doing to delay the business which the committee considers to be relevant at this time. At some future date we can discuss what Mr. Grégoire wants to bring up.

The effect of these things, this motion, and of using a recorded vote, is to widen the purview of the committee, and Mr. Grégoire's motion would have the effect of complicating the issue before the committee beyond the scope of these bills and of retarding for the people of the north the legislation that they unanimously agreed upon on two occasions and at two separate Northwest territorial council meetings.

Mr. RHEAUME: I think we are faced with a couple of problems. When you are dealing with 40 per cent of Canada which is not yet in confederation—that is what the government has asked us to do—and you are trying to prepare the ground for admission into confederation of this mass of new territory which belongs to all Canadians, not just to the people of the north, but to everyone in Canada, it does open up the whole area. Take a look at Bill C-83. The fact that it affects so many other pieces of legislation is an indication that you have a complicated matter. But unfortunately practically anything that any committee member wanted to raise could be brought within the area of federal-provincial relations, and could come quite legitimately under the terms of these bills. That is one of the problems.

From the technical point of view, anybody can raise almost any damn thing knowing it to be relevant to these bills. The committee must realize that we cannot throw everything in Canada open to discussion.

The other problem is this: It is not so much the legality of the thing whether or not the committee can accept what was done in the house by the opposition—I expect it was the Créditistes, if they were Créditistes at that time. I think they were Social Credit at that time; but any rate the spirit is what is complicating the problem. Perhaps we can say that the member for Lapointe should have been more alert and should have scrutinized Mr. Pickersgill's motion—or rather Mr. Baldwin's motion, but Mr. Pickersgill moved it.

Mr. TURNER: No, Mr. Baldwin moved it.

Mr. RHEAUME: I do not care who moved it.

The CHAIRMAN: It was moved by Mr. Pickersgill and seconded by Mr. Laing.

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: I relied on the word of Mr. Pickersgill, and I never thought there would be a trick like that in this motion.

Mr. TURNER: Mr. MacInnis suggested to me that if I was not careful to reply to every remark that Mr. Grégoire made I would be considered to have agreed with it.

Mr. RHEAUME: It seems to me that the way out of the box that we are building bigger and bigger for ourselves as a stronger container and are

about to nail the lid on, and this legislation poses, opening as it does the whole area of 40 per cent of Canada geographically for participation in confederation is surely for the committee to quit being lawyers in the bad sense of the word, and let us find out what the spirit of it is, and then to go about interpreting the spirit of it. He should realize that in fact the littoral islands off Quebec could be discussed in this committee with any witnesses that Mr. Grégoire wanted to bring in, if the committee felt this would be helpful in this area; and secondly we are going to run into the same problem as various points arise, which may come up on these bills. If we are going to stick technically to arguments, there is nothing in Canada which is not relevant. If you go through the clauses of Bills C-83 and C-84, and consider all the acts related thereto, you throw the whole thing wide open. I suggest to the committee that we come back a little bit and not stand too much on the legality of the thing, and perhaps thereby we could reach better agreement.

Mr. TURNER: I recall the testimony of the four gentlemen who were elected representatives on the Northwest territorial council, on the question of the province of Quebec and the islands. They had not heard about it. They did not care about it. That shows how important this subject is in the minds of the people of the north. I say this directly to Mr. Rheame that by enlarging the spirit you would not be adding anything to Canada's constitutional development. So I think we should get on with the study of these bills and report them with a view to passage of this legislation.

Mr. DINSDALE: On that point, it is quite true that the four members of the Northwest territorial council had little knowledge of affairs in the eastern Arctic. That was because they had no responsibility as councillors for the eastern Arctic. Canadians in the eastern Arctic have not had the territorial vote. It has been denied them. I think that is a fundamental point, and one of the reasons this committee has been called together.

But as far as delaying this legislation and bringing a new status to the residents of the Northwest Territories is concerned, we might have been dealing with this matter last July. When the house leader made the commitment that the committee could be called, there was no reason why this committee should not have been working during the entire session instead of delaying the matter until the latter part of the session. I got the impression the members of the house were being put into a corner which is a tactic sometimes used in the House of Commons on the part of the house leader to enforce acquiescence by a delaying process until time had run out and we have no other recourse but to agree to the bill without debate.

Mr. TURNER: On a point of order, the government as represented through my minister has absolutely no objection to hearing the evidence that Mr. Rheame wants to bring down on this bill, and has no desire to run it through without hearing those witnesses. My position is: let us hear witnesses who can contribute to the discussions of the bill.

Mr. DINSDALE: My point is that if there is an assumption that I would not implement the passage of these bills, I do not think that is a fair statement, because we could have been dealing with these matters over the past several months.

Mr. MACINNIS: He speaks about an understanding that was given to him by the Secretary of State during the resolution stage that he would have an opportunity to discuss these matters thoroughly. But he and the Secretary of State had no discussion on what he wanted to discuss and with whom. There was no contact between yourself and the secretary of State.

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: Not privately, only in the house, and it is written in here, the problems I would like to discuss, on July 8.

Mr. MACINNIS: There was no restriction whatsoever either on the undertaking of the Secretary of State or on Mr. Grégoire as to singling out any individual, whether they be from the provinces or otherwise. This was blanket undertaking by the Secretary of State and as such I think this matter should be decided now.

The CHAIRMAN: We have a motion.

Mr. RHEAUME: On a point of order, just to correct a misunderstanding which Mr. Turner may have, I disagree that all that is at stake is what the people of the north themselves have to say in terms of elected councils. My whole presentation this morning was on the point whether this was a method for all Canadians, it does not matter whether the four elected councillors did not know where the islands are. I could put a question to the committee which would probably embarrass most of you. I hope we will discuss all these matters, so that the committee may know and the people in Canada may know about the decisions we are to make not just for the people living north of the 60th parallel, or the position with respect to these islands, but matters which are of importance to all Canadians.

The CHAIRMAN: At this point let me say I have indicated before that on the matter of privilege which was raised, the commitment cannot be properly discussed in this committee, because I am informed that the undertaking which is referred to as coming from the Secretary of State is not for the consideration of this committee. Therefore, we are dealing with the work of this committee and we must necessarily refer to the order of reference which we have, and of which order all members are fully aware. It will have to be done in some other way, not by a decision of this committee, that we enlarge the order of reference which this committee has received. I trust that the members realize this position. We have an order of reference. I read from page 4775 of *Hansard* of November 15, 1963, as follows:

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Secretary of State):

. . . . It is the motion drafted by the hon. member for Peace River, and is in the following terms:

That the subjects dealt with in Bills C-83 and C-84 be referred to the standing committee on mines, forests and waters for consideration; provided however, that despite this motion the said bills shall remain on the order paper as orders for second reading without prejudice to the right to make or proceed with motions for such second reading.

If, Mr. Speaker, you could ascertain whether there would be unanimous consent to having this motion made and dealt with in summary fashion, as I indicated last night, I would be happy to proceed.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): As far as the official opposition is concerned, having suggested this course we are naturally in agreement with it.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (*Winnipeg North Centre*): Mr. Speaker, on the assumption that there will be no debate, for it would amount only to duplication, we are prepared to agree with the course proposed.

Mr. R. N. Thompson (*Red Deer*): We agree to follow the same course.

(Translation)

Mr. Gilles Grégoire (*Lapointe*): That is agreeable, Mr. Speaker.

(Text)

Mr. Pickersgill: I thank hon. gentlemen opposite for their co-operation and in these circumstances I move the motion, seconded by my colleague the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources.

Motion agreed to.

This is the work which is before the committee, and the committee does not have the power to make any enlargement or restriction unless a different order of reference is obtained. This is the position of the Chair since this was introduced, and I think all hon. members of the committee will realize this. Now we are only discussing the witnesses who would be properly called by this committee to do the work which has been referred to it. Of course Mr. Grégoire has indicated that he would not state on which subject he would like to call these gentlemen. So a discussion of Mr. Grégoire's motion and amendment is before the committee.

Mr. RHEAUME: May I get a technical point established by Mr. Ollivier.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes. What particular point?

Mr. RHEAUME: I think we are going to get into a corner if we argue legal technicalities. My question is this: does in fact Bill C-83 containing an amendment to numerous other federal statutes broaden the subject matter of Bill C-83 because it will have an amending effect on other legislation?

Mr. P. M. OLLIVIER (*Law Clerk of the House of Commons*): If by amendment to one of these bills you could do what Mr. Grégoire wants to do, then Mr. Grégoire's ideas would be within the competence of the committee. But if it is not by amendment to these bills that you can do these things, then you are outside the order of reference. In other words, if you take any one of these bills and by making an amendment to one or another, or to both, include these islands in the territory, then I would say that it was within your order of reference. The second point is: if it is not within your order of reference, you still have a remedy. You can ask for further instructions from the house to enlarge your order of reference.

Mr. DEACHMAN: May I ask a further question?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes.

Mr. DEACHMAN: In your opinion is it within the realm of these bills to alter the position of these islands, to place them in Quebec or anywhere else than where they are now?

Mr. OLLIVIER: No, I do not think so. That would come under boundaries. Anytime a boundary is effected, it has to come under the boundaries act.

Mr. MACINNIS: In that the boundaries of the province of Quebec are mentioned, can anybody in the committee indicate possibly where the boundary of Quebec is in respect to these off shore islands? Is there any one in the committee who can establish the exact boundary for these islands? Surely in order to do that we would have to call on provincial authorities in respect to this matter.

Mr. OLLIVIER: If I recall it, I think the boundaries of Quebec and Ontario were defined in 1912, when new Quebec was added to Quebec, that is Ungava. But it did not include these islands. I think the boundaries would be clear enough. I do not have a map before me, and I am not a geographer.

Mr. MACINNIS: You say the boundaries of Quebec are mentioned. When were they defined?

Mr. OLLIVIER: In 1912.

Mr. MACINNIS: But nevertheless we find that Newfoundland and Quebec are still disputing the matter of boundaries.

Mr. OLLIVIER: That was decided by the Privy Council.

Mr. MACINNIS: So the question is still open, as to just where the boundary of Quebec is in respect of the islands. What is the situation there? I suggest that

Mr. Grégoire in bringing this forward is standing on pretty firm ground. Nobody here can explain just what the provincial boundaries are.

Mr. OLLIVIER: Oh, yes.

Mr. MACINNIS: Oh, no. On several occasions the question of the boundaries between Quebec and Newfoundland have been disputed.

Mr. OLLIVIER: You are dealing with the islands now.

The CHAIRMAN: Order, order.

Mr. GRANGER: I have to take exception to the remark of Mr. MacInnis' statement, since I come from Newfoundland, and since Labrador is within my riding. I would like to say that the boundary of the province and of Newfoundland was firmly set long ago.

Mr. MACINNIS: I would like to ask the hon. member if he thinks he could go into Quebec and make the statement he just made, and make it stick?

Mr. OLLIVIER: I know they are not too happy about those boundaries.

Mr. SIMPSON: I regret being a little late, since I did not have an opportunity to hear Mr. Grégoire's motion. I take it from your remarks explaining the motion that Mr. Grégoire is asking for permission of the committee to call new witnesses. As far as this is concerned, there is apparently no other estimation on what the purpose is? What is going to be discussed by these witnesses? I do not think we are acting according to any precedent here because yesterday we ratified the list of witnesses who were to come down. These two would not be the first witnesses we are calling who live south of the 60th parallel, because with all due respect, I doubt whether Mr. Wilson, the port manager at Churchill, who I think is undoubtedly one of Canada's most efficient port managers—I know him very well—he could assist this committee in any discussion that may come about in regard to the two bills that are before the committee, since he has lived in Churchill ever since he went north from the Pas. And to my knowledge he has not spent a great deal of time if any, in the territories. I was quite surprised to see his name mentioned yesterday, but yesterday somebody offered information that in his opinion he thought he could be constructive to our committee.

Mr. DEACHMAN: If it was my suggestion that he be called, I would be glad to withdraw it.

Mr. SIMPSON: As one to have living in the territories. I wanted to make the point that these witnesses would not be setting a precedent.

Mr. DINSDALE: I think it would expedite the business of this committee if the motion were now put.

The CHAIRMAN: I presume we have heard the members on it?

Mr. TURNER: Mr. MacInnis wants the right to call witnesses to explain the boundaries of Quebec. Surely that is included as a description of the border of Quebec and the Northwest Territories.

Mr. MACINNIS: Are you disputing the fact that Quebec and Newfoundland have been squabbling over this same subject?

Mr. TURNER: I am disputing the fact that the borders have not been changed, and that a change of the borders has nothing to do with these bills.

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: They may be defined on paper, but they are absolutely without logic to any geographer.

The CHAIRMAN: I believe the committee is prepared for the motion. This is the motion.

Moved by Mr. Watson seconded by Mr. Rheaume that the motion from Mr. Grégoire standing since last meeting of this committee to

the effect of calling the provincial ministers of natural resources for Manitoba, Quebec, and Ontario be disposed of this morning.

That is what we are doing.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. TURNER: Get on to Mr. Grégoire's motion now.

The CHAIRMAN: Will the clerk please read the motion?

The CLERK OF THE COMMITTEE: Moved by Mr. Grégoire seconded by Mr. Rhéaume that the minister of natural resources of the provinces of Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec, be called by this committee.

Mr. TURNER: May I ask for a recorded vote?

Mr. MARTINEAU: What is the legal position?

The CHAIRMAN: I do not recall reading about that. We are fortunate in having with us the legal counsel of the House of Commons this morning. Is a recorded vote proper in a committee?

Mr. OLLIVIER: If you insisted, yes.

Mr. TURNER: I insist upon it.

The CHAIRMAN: I am given a reference citation 491 subsection (1) page 354 of Beauchesne, 4th edition, 1958, which reads as follows:

The names of the members attending each committee are entered by the committee clerk in the minutes; and when a division takes place the clerk takes down the names of the members distinguishing at which side of the question they respectively vote; and such lists are to be given in, with the report to the house. M. 769.

So that seems to be clear. But to go a little further, do you know of a situation where there was a tied vote, or such a thing? I understand it is something which occurs about once in 25 years.

Mr. OLLIVIER: You then follow the same procedure that takes place in the house.

The CHAIRMAN: All right, very well. We are prepared for the vote.

Mr. MACINNIS: I want to say something. When I was speaking an hour or so ago I referred to the statement following Mr. Grégoire's remarks that are recorded in the minutes, and I said at that time that the last two statements were very ambiguous, that we could not go ahead until we had a report from the steering committee. The steering committee did not meet and we did not get a report. As to the last statement,—I do not recall the exact wording of it—it counteracted the second last statement, and we are now about to do what I insisted should be done, when you started this discussion on which we have spent an hour and 40 minutes in argument.

The CHAIRMAN: Order, order.

Mr. MACINNIS: I am not finished. I want to make a point. As to what Mr. Turner was last saying—and the minutes as recorded of the last meeting indicate that the conduct of that meeting all morning had been fouled up—we might as well go all the way today, when Mr. Turner again insists on having a recorded vote.

The CHAIRMAN: I am sorry that remarks are made. I think the committee has a problem, and that the members regarded it as a problem. The members honestly felt that they had opinions to express and I had no alternative but to permit them to do so. I realize we are dealing with points of order and a motion, and not with evidence. I realize that. And I honestly regret the remarks that have been made by the hon. member. I feel that I have been as honest as I could be in permitting the proper discussion that the members should have. We are now ready for the vote.

Mr. MACINNIS: On a matter of privilege, you have implied that I made regrettable remarks. I have not at any time questioned your honesty, but I do question your ability to run any type of meeting. What I wish to say to you, if you will permit this to go on, is that for what has happened at these meetings, having regard to the developments that have gone on—I place the full responsibility on you. I blame you for the fact that this meeting has gone on for an hour and 40 minutes without accomplishing anything, because you have failed in your responsibility to follow the recorded minutes of the previous meeting.

The CHAIRMAN: I am sorry that the hon. member has gained such an impression. Am I to assume that he includes in it the fact that I was not acting properly when I gave him opportunities that he requested to address the committee, and of which he has taken advantage? We are now ready for the vote. I must say we have had a problem here of imputing bad motives to the Chair. This is not a matter for a discussion although it may be a matter for a motion or some such thing. However, I have read the rules in this connection and this is not a proper thing to do.

We finally have reached the vote in connection with this motion, and there is a request that it be a recorded vote. I have read the rules; may we now proceed to record the vote.

All those in favour of the motion?

Mr. MACINNIS: Mr. Chairman, on a question of privilege, you say I am imputing bad motives to the Chair and that I am not proper in doing so. Any time you wish to take up a question of privilege in this committee or in the house and you think for one moment I will back off from the truth, as recorded in the minutes of this proceeding, you have another think coming.

The CHAIRMAN: I have no remarks to make. I have been delayed a further five minutes on the vote. I would now ask the gentlemen who are in favour of this motion to please indicate.

Mr. MACINNIS: Will you read the motion?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes. Mr. Clerk, will you please read the motion.

THE CLERK OF THE COMMITTEE: Moved by Mr. Grégoire, seconded by Mr. Rheaume, that the ministers of natural resources of the provinces of Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec, be called by this committee.

The CHAIRMAN: All in favour please raise your right hand.

Mr. MACINNIS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, how can this committee by virtue of the rules have a recorded vote at the insistence of one member? We have here a case of one man making a decision in respect of a recorded vote. Yesterday the members insisted that the steering committee could not make a decision; if this is so, how can one member in this committee be responsible for having a recorded vote taken?

The CHAIRMAN: We are not doing this because one member indicated this was his wish. I read the rules presented to me by the Clerk of the committee and it says that the votes of the committee will be indicated, that is, who is for and against, and it will be reported to the house.

Mr. MACINNIS: The words "for" and "against" do not indicate it is a recorded vote. It does not call for names.

The CHAIRMAN: I am sorry. I will re-read the quotation from Beauchesne's Parliamentary Rules and Forms at page 354, paragraph 491(1) which reads as follows:

The names of the members attending each committee are entered by the committee Clerk in the minutes; and when a division takes place, the Clerk takes down the names of the members, distinguishing on which side of the question they respectively vote; and such lists are to be given in, with the report, to the house.

Mr. MACINNIS: In this case, I will apologize. I got carried away by the arguments put forward on the matter of a recorded vote.

Mr. DINSDALE: Mr. Chairman, I think we are in the middle of the vote.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, and no points of order can be raised during a vote.

Mr. Clerk, would you record the vote?

Mr. RHEAUME: I was paired.

Motion negatived: yeas 7; nays 9.

Mr. TURNER: Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee be empowered to go back before the house to widen its terms of reference in order to consider in due course the question of the offshore islands and the borders between the provinces and the Northwest Territories.

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): I second the motion.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Turner, would you write your motion out?

Mr. TURNER: Yes. I move, seconded by Mr. Watson, (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*), that the committee seek power from the House of Commons to widen its terms of reference so as to include a discussion of the question of the frontiers between the provinces and the Northwest Territories.

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: Is that only for discussion or the right to call witnesses?

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): And, call witnesses.

The CHAIRMAN: You are moving that it be made a subject of reference to this committee?

Mr. TURNER: Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Turner and seconded by Mr. Watson, (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*), that this committee go to the house to seek new terms of reference empowering the committee to consider the question of the offshore islands and the borders between the provinces and the Northwest Territories.

Mr. RHEAUME: I would like to insist on a recorded vote in this connection.
Some hon. MEMBERS: Agreed.

The CHAIRMAN: I gather from standing orders that all votes should normally be recorded.

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: And, that includes the calling of witnesses?

Mr. TURNER: Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: Would all those in favour please indicate? If anyone is against, please indicate.

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: Is this a recorded vote?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes. Everyone voted for it, I believe. Is anyone voting against it or not voting?

It is unanimous. Mr. Clerk, would you please record the names of all those present?

Motion agreed to unanimously.

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: May we move that this be done at the next sittings of the house?

Mr. OLLIVIER: I think this should be an enlargement of the order of reference rather than a new one.

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: Can you do that this morning?

The CHAIRMAN: We can do it on Monday. Gentlemen, are we clear that we are going to sit on Monday afternoon, Wednesday morning and afternoon and Friday morning?

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: You will present that motion on Monday?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes.

The committee adjourned.

EVIDENCE

MONDAY, December 9, 1963.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, I see a quorum. Could we proceed with our meeting?

Welcome to all. We have here today witnesses from the department.

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: Mr. Chairman, the other day when we voted on a motion to enlarge the terms of reference, the motion was accepted unanimously. I was surprised this afternoon to see that you did not ask for a unanimous consent to have the report of this committee accepted this afternoon which would enable us to discuss with the witnesses from the north all the points and all the problems which must be studied by this committee. I do not think it is normal and I think that this will deter the committee from studying the report and all the problems of this committee.

The CHAIRMAN: On the point of order raised by Mr. Grégoire, I must say that at the adjournment of the last meeting, we had unanimously passed the motion. I got in touch with the office of the committee clerks and requested that we proceed to present this in the house. All the documents were prepared by the office of the committee clerks as usual. I had no indication nor even a direction that we wanted to dispense with the normal rules. This afternoon, as I recall, four reports were presented in the house and there was only one report today which requested that the rules be dispensed with and that unanimous consent be requested. I must say I do not suppose that procedure in all committees requires this. In any event, I did not have any direction from the committee to make such a request. I followed the usual procedure, according to the documents which were presented to me by the office of the committee clerks, and I did what I saw on the order paper, that is I ordered the office of the committee clerks to follow the procedure which should be followed.

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: Do we understand that you shifted your responsibility to the office of the committee clerks?

The CHAIRMAN: No, but they are the people who do the clerical work which this committee requires. I have no other alternative. My personal secretary should not do the work that I should do as Chairman of this committee. Of course, she has no knowledge of and experience in the matter, and I have just as little as she has. I do not think the committee can regret that I followed the procedure I did and that I obtained the clerical assistance of the clerk of this committee, as I presume chairmen of other committees do.

Mr. RHEAUME: Can we then ask the clerk why, in the preparation of these documents, he did not ask that the house give unanimous consent so that we could enlarge our terms of reference.

The CHAIRMAN: He had no such direction in the reference that we prepared. As a matter of fact, I looked at the order paper and saw that most of the committees are on the order paper today and are following this procedure. It was my opinion that in the case where you have a meeting in the morning and you want to sit in the afternoon, at the first meeting of the committee you make this request. In order to sit properly in the afternoon you must obtain consent and request the house to forget the rules. This is a matter of more importance and has more ramifications than the simple matter of

sitting when the house sits. I had no direction and I so informed Mr. Plouffe and Mr. Guitard that no such directions were given to me. I requested them to follow what must be done this afternoon, to present to the *Journals* the required motion.

Mr. RHEAUME: I hope this does not herald a new kind of approach to this committee that, as Mr. Turner suggested at the last meeting, we are all going to turn into lawyers and to start acting on technicalities. We have got to accept the spirit of what this committee wants; otherwise we are going to have to be in this damn committee forever. It is obvious the committee wanted to discuss the islands, and this was unanimously approved at the time we had the northern witnesses. Surely that was the time not just to start following Beauchesne's rules but to get on with the work of the committee.

The CHAIRMAN: I trust we may proceed on all matters as quickly as possible.

We have here a witness from the north, and also some from the department. I think it was the general opinion of the committee that on all these occasions we should deal with the witnesses who are from out of town first. We have here Mr. Searle representing the board of trade of Yellowknife. Mr. Searle is authorized to testify for the board of trade of Yellowknife.

Mr. RHEAUME: Can I suggest that the committee give Mr. Searle a chance, as we have done with other witnesses, to make a general statement, rather than allow the committee members to start throwing questions at him right away?

The CHAIRMAN: Is it agreeable that Mr. Searle be heard at first? Mr. Searle, would you make your statement to the committee as you see fit on the matter of the two bills before the committee?

Mr. D. H. SEARLE (*Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce*): Mr. Chairman, I have a brief here that I have prepared. I have presented it to the Yellowknife board of trade and they have agreed that we should present it as prepared. For those of you who have not been to Yellowknife, I just might point out that Yellowknife is one community—I think I can safely say about the only community—in the north which has business and professional men in existence because it is economically feasible. In other words, they are not dependent in Yellowknife upon any government institutions. Yellowknife does not exist because of the government but it exists because it is economically feasible that it should. Therefore, the views which I am going to express are the views of the north, and I submit the views of the north's probably most progressive business and professional men.

Mr. TURNER: Mr. Chairman, at this point would Mr. Searle tell us whether he has a resolution on behalf of the Yellowknife board of trade authorizing him as attorney to appear on behalf of the board?

Mr. SEARLE: I do not have a resolution as such but I am a member of the executive of the Yellowknife board of trade, and the rest of the executives have authorized me to appear.

Mr. RHEAUME: Did you have a meeting of the executive?

Mr. SEARLE: At the meeting of the executives, one or two days prior to my departure, I received this authorization.

With regard to the principle behind this bill, let us say that the Yellowknife board of trade agrees wholeheartedly with this principle, which, of course, is the idea of decentralizing and putting into the north the government which will run the north. We, of Yellowknife do agree with this principle, but what we do disagree with is the way it is being done in the form of these two bills. First of all, we say there is a duplication of administration here as a result of these

bills. Right now we have one commissioner of the Northwest Territories, one council of the Northwest Territories, one chief of this division and one superintendent of that section. Should these bills go through, of course then we have two commissioners, two councils and so on. We submit it is not only in the best interests of the residents of the north, but in the best interests of all Canadians that we do not allow an expansion of the administration certainly beyond what we can afford and beyond what we need.

It is the submission of the board of trade that these two bills do expand this and make it certainly more than we need.

Division is justified in two ways; the first is that it was recommended by the Northwest Territories council. As we all know, the old council which no longer exists is the council which recommended this. This old council had four elected and five appointed members. The elected members were from Fort Smith, Fort Simpson, Yellowknife and Aklavik. The point we would like to make here is this council has been held up as representing all the residents of the north. Surely this is not so in respect of this council; there were not any representatives of the eastern Arctic. As I said, the representatives were from Fort Simpson, Fort Smith, Yellowknife and Aklavik all of which are in the Mackenzie Territory. Therefore, the Eskimos of the east have not had a say in this matter. Their representatives never suggested this, because they never had any representatives to suggest it.

It is our submission it is these Eskimos of the east with whom we are very concerned, because it is they who are being cordoned off from the rest of the north.

The second justification for this step is administrative efficiency. I would like to leave this for a moment. We like to think the purpose of everyone who does business in Yellowknife—our purpose for living there—is we hope some day we may be able to make a province out of this vast unclaimed country. We like to think that the government is taking steps to do this. Our present population is 25,000 approximately, of which somewhere in the neighbourhood of 10,000 live on the Nunassiat side, the east, and approximately 15,000 on the Mackenzie side.

At this time the justification for non-provincial status in the Northwest Territories is that the people say you just do not have the population to support all those institutions from an administrative point of view; you just cannot do it. Our submission is, that if you divide our 25,000 people into 15,000 on the west and 10,000 on the east, this certainly is not a step toward provincial status; it is retrograde. It would mean there would be too few numbers of people in each territory to proceed towards provincial status. The question which has come to many of our minds is this: if we divide the Northwest Territories into east and west now, what will happen in, say, 10 or 15 years, allowing for normal population build-up; will we have another division, this time horizontally; will we divide just below Norman Wells and have another commissioner; will we have the delta area, Norman Wells, in the upper Mackenzie and Yellowknife and Hay river in the lower Mackenzie, and have three commissioners, and three administrations? We do not know where you will stop, and we are speculating. We trust it will stop now.

With regard to the boundary of the Nunassiat territory, our understanding is it was chosen because of high land, or something like that. One thing for sure is nearly all of the people in that area of Eskimos; there are few whites. This, then, will in effect be a boundary which has been formed with considerations of race, language and religion. Some of these people believe in spirits; they do not speak English. They all will be in this area. Our submission is that we want to discourage boundaries and groups of people all of one type being placed in these boundaries; because although the Eskimos are not too well educated

now, they are being educated at a fantastic rate and perhaps in 10, 15 or 20 years from now they will start to wonder why they are not a province. They even might consider an idea such as separatism.

Mr. RHÉAUME: Save us from this.

Mr. SEARLE: Although I am sure this is a touchy point, we certainly do not want to put people in such a position and allow this problem to arise. We do not know it will, and we do not know that it will not; but we must not take a chance.

With regard to our natural resources, presently there is gold at Yellowknife, iron ore at Yellowknife and on the Yukon boundary; I understand there is iron ore found in Baffin island; base metals at Pine Point, oil at Norman Wells, exploration for oil at Banks island, and certainly exploration in the eastern Arctic. We do not know how many of these areas which are presently existing will be put into production; maybe none of them. However, should it prove economically feasible to put into production, say, an oil find in the eastern Arctic, or an iron ore deposit there, then we in the western Arctic say we want to have the benefits of that find also, and if a company does this and is taxed, we want the benefit of those taxes too. So, we do not want to be divided now before we really know what there is up there. We do not want to be cut off from this. If, on the other hand, we find there is oil and oil goes into production in the west, we think it is only fair we should bring the Eskimos ahead with us and give them the advantage of the taxes which we would have should we find oil.

At this time I might say in Yellowknife there has been a certain amount of what you might call lateral or horizontal movement from the east to the west. I mention this because a good many people think that people in the east move down towards Montreal or Ottawa, and the people in the west go through Edmonton. However, I did take the time to inquire of certain mining companies which advise that Eskimos from the east have been trained in certain training schemes in the west. Right now there is a very limited amount of integration and lateral movement, with expansion and industry this would go forward; there would be more of this. This is what we like to see. We like to see the Eskimos move back and forth and integrate. We think a division would discourage this.

One point on which I have a certain amount of knowledge is the administration of justice.

Since 1955, the territorial court of the Northwest Territories has been administering justice throughout the whole of the north, west and east. The present judge whom I am sure you all know, Mr. Justice J. Sissons, has travelled, not just last year but every year, twice a year around the western boundary of the eastern Arctic on circuits which certainly cost us some money—I believe about \$6,000 each. However these circuits have been regularly made, and on them we take defence counsel, crown prosecutor, clerk of the court, and court reporter.

The principle governing these circuits has been that justice will be taken to every corner of Her Majesty's realm, and to every man's door. This has been done, and by doing this, the territorial court has made precedents which we know and study, precedents which are concerned with the Eskimo and Indian way of life. This is new law, and a lot of it we think may be bad law. However I do not wish to express a personal opinion because in many cases we find ourselves acting for the crown and it is sometimes against us that the judge finds. However he does at least temper justice with a certain amount of mercy, and certainly modifies the law when it comes to Indians and Eskimos.

He often says, in a case of an Eskimo or an Indian, when acting as judge, for example, in a case of breaking and entering, "if you were a white man I would give you eight months, but since you are an Indian, I will give you only four." The reason he does this is as follows: if you think of an Eskimo or an Indian who cannot speak the English language, if you think of him in a guardroom, let us say, at Fort Smith, or if you think of him being sent to Fort Saskatchewan, let us say, to the penitentiary, in addition to every other punishment he may suffer, since he cannot speak the language, he has to suffer, shall we say, from the silent system. So the judge feels, rightly or wrongly, that this additional punishment should not be imposed. Therefore he shortens their terms of imprisonment. This is just an example to show you how this special thought of the judge is applied.

In addition, he takes cognizance of the native marriage system. For example, in the Remo estate case, he decided that an Eskimo marriage is a valid one, and one which should be recognized.

Mr. TURNER: You mean an Eskimo marriage performed under Eskimo customs?

Mr. SEARLE: Yes.

Mr. NIELSEN: Delightful customs!

Mr. TURNER: I yield to a member who has more experience.

Mr. SEARLE: However this portion of the division is based on the act respecting the Mackenzie Territory and it restricts the court. The present territorial court of the Northwest Territories is restricted to the Mackenzie Territory. There will be no more circuits of this court to the eastern Arctic. The Act respecting the Nunassiat Territory provides for a territorial court of the Nunassiat territory. Section 24, subsection (2) of the bill provides that the government may appoint a person as judge of the territorial court of the Nunassiat Territory. Nowhere else in any other act which deals with the appointment of judges does this word "person" appear; a normal act will say "a judge will be appointed". And then you look into the Judges Act where you will find that he has to have ten years standing at the bar, and at least there are certain qualifications set up. But this bill merely says: "a person may be appointed as judge".

I submit, and the board of trade submits that this may mean anyone, possibly someone without any legal training. We do not know what is contemplated here. This act in respect to the Nunassiat Territory goes on to say that there will be ex officio judges, and that these ex officio judges are judges of the territorial courts of the Yukon, the Mackenzie, and judges of Manitoba and judges of Ontario. We counted these up and they total about 41 judges. What it seems will happen will be that just any judge from Ontario or Manitoba might be picked out by, presumably, the Department of Justice, and told, when a case arises up there "just go up and handle it".

There will be no continuity here of judges, no one judge administering justice with a view to the customs, with a view to the difference between the native peoples and the whites. It is any judge from a superior court of Ontario or Manitoba who may go up there.

We feel that the administration of justice since 1955—since the establishment of the territorial court of the Northwest Territories—has not been done too badly. We feel that the court has brought justice to every part of the Arctic and to every man's door. This new act respecting Nunassiat even allows the sittings to be held at a court house, I believe, anywhere in either Manitoba or Ontario. This is certainly so for civil matters. But it would also appear from the bill with regard to civil actions, that an action might be commenced at any court house in Manitoba or Ontario, or in the Yukon, or at Whitehorse.

Put yourself in the position of a business man struggling away in the Nunassiat Territory, let us say, at Frobisher bay, and having someone commence an action against him in Winnipeg, thereby compelling him and his witnesses to attend at Winnipeg for the trial of that action. This could be extremely costly and inconvenient.

We submit—the Yellowknife board of trade submits—that this is a retrograde step, this administration of justice as set out in the Nunassiat Territory Act. Moreover, we point out that there are no lawyers in Nunassiat. There are none. I do not know how it is proposed that these people will be defended, or if it is even contemplated that they should. At present when we go on circuit we take defence counsel with us, and they do have defence.

Now the heading I have here is entitled “real reason for division”. I do not know whether I should go into it but I might say that this is a mere matter of conjecture. It might offend some people but as we see it in the north the government and the government institutions are really the major industries there.

By division, we think the western part should be allowed to go ahead at whatever speed it wishes towards provincial status. In the east it is contemplated that it will probably remain as it is for some time. So it is conceivable that in the west we might obtain provincial status soon. This leaves the Nunassiat Territory to be administered by the department of northern affairs. If this division did not go through and if the north were allowed to proceed together as one with independent provincial status, then there would be no more need for a department of northern affairs. Perhaps we are being unkind, and the department does not think in this way, but this is how it looks to us in the north.

With regard to more specific regulations in the two bills, we have the feeling that we are being asked to keep quiet in Mackenzie in respect of the division and we will be given a commissioner. We feel that this is almost a bribe. We feel that we are being asked to forget about the Eskimos in return for having a commissioner.

We certainly agree that we should have a commissioner for the whole of the Northwest Territories. We think he should be resident in the north. We do not think we need a division. We feel that the north can get along with a resident commissioner in the north for the whole of the north.

If these bills are passed we will have a commissioner in the western Arctic resident at Fort Smith. The board of trade of Yellowknife submits this is not very central. We feel, of course, that the commissioner should be resident at Yellowknife. We feel Yellowknife is more central and because of communication links it will be much easier for the commissioner to travel throughout the north. However, we are really not basing our submission in that regard, but are saying that we should have a commissioner in the north for the whole of the Northwest Territories. We really do not care whether he is resident at Fort Smith, Baker Lake or Yellowknife. Of course, we would like to see him resident of Yellowknife.

A change in the west will substantially (a) give us a commissioner, (b) have a commissioner resident at Fort Smith (c) give us a council of five elected members and four appointed rather than four elected members and five appointed.

It is our submission that our council should be totally elected. I do not know what justification there is for appointing members at all.

In respect of the eastern Arctic, this is where we feel the greatest travesty upon democracy exists. There will be one commissioner at Ottawa. That does not represent decentralization and is not carrying out the intention of the act. That commissioner will not go into the hinterland but remain at Ottawa. There will be a council of seven members, two elected and five appointed. It is

interesting to note that four members of a council form a quorum. We feel this is certainly a facade of democracy, because if four appointed members get together they can form a quorum and hold a meeting, and the attendance of the elected members is not required. In no case is it mandatory for a commissioner to accept a councillors division. In other words, we have on the one hand five elected members and four appointed members and on the other two elected members and five appointed members all making suggestions to their commissioner which he may or may not accept. Surely, gentlemen, this is not democracy. The board, therefore, feels that it should be mandatory that the advice of councillors be accepted.

We do not want the western Arctic to become the Mackenzie district. We want to maintain the old name of Northwest Territories. We already have in the Mackenzie section the Mackenzie highway, the Mackenzie river, the Mackenzie school and a Mackenzie hotel. Let me say we have had just about enough of the name Mackenzie. We would like to keep the plain old name of Northwest Territories which is traditional. Alberta and Saskatchewan were part of the Northwest Territories. You have all heard of the Northwest Passage, the Northwest Trading Company and the Northwest Mounted Police. We are very proud of that tradition, and proud to be part of the Northwest Territories. We do not like the idea that by a swipe of a pen this tradition is done away with and the new name of Mackenzie territory adopted.

Our plea, therefore, gentlemen, on behalf of the board of trade is that we leave the north as it is, as one unity, allowing us and our Eskimos in the west, and the Indians and Eskimos of the east to integrate and blend and move together toward provincial status. Do not divide us and split the population thereby making our goal of provincial status even harder to attain. Allow us due process of law and justice throughout the whole of the north, not just the west. Allow justice to be tempered with mercy and knowledge, especially so where Eskimos are concerned. Do not allow a duplication of administration or proliferation of the administration. Do not sacrifice the Eskimo of the east into the hands of an administration for time immemorial. Do not create boundaries determined as a result of considerations of race, colour of skin, language or religion. We do plead for decentralization. Do give us a resident commissioner in the north. We do not care where he is resident. Do give us fair representation and a responsible council, and do make it mandatory that the commissioner accept advice from the councillors. Do leave us our name, Northwestern Territories, and do not divide us.

Gentlemen, I am a part of the north personally. I first came north to Yellowknife in 1946 with my parents and entered grade III. All my education was gained in the north with the exception of my university training. Upon conclusion of this training I returned north and there practised law. I am presently doing the work of the crown prosecutor for the Northwest Territories, and certainly in the last 1½ years I have travelled extensively throughout the north. Gentlemen, I submit that I know about what I speak.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Searle. The committee may wish to proceed to question Mr. Searle.

Mr. RHEAUME: Mr. Searle, you say "do not divide the Northwest Territories". In your mind is it feasible for a commissioner to administer the affairs of Baker lake and Frobisher bay from a location on Great Slave lake?

Mr. SEARLE: Yes, it is. I have not done this, but if you measured the air miles from Frobisher bay to Ottawa, which is where the administration would take place and you measured the air miles from Yellowknife to Ottawa, you would not see too great a difference. We know we can get from Yellowknife

to Frobisher bay by aircraft in a day, and I am speaking of the new twin-engine Beachcraft which the court party is presently using. We feel that this is feasible.

Mr. RHEAUME: In other words, the emphasis that has been put on the size of the Northwest Territories as a reason for dividing it is not valid in your experience?

Mr. SEARLE: No, it is not.

Mr. RHEAUME: Does the boundary which would separate the people of Victoria island and Cambridge bay from the people at Gjoa Haven and Spence bay be a sensible boundary?

Mr. SEARLE: I cannot see any sense for the boundary at all.

Mr. RHEAUME: Do you think in justice it would be fair that the people of Frobisher bay and the Baker lake area should have the territorial franchise in a new territory which is now proposed in these bills, and the people of north Keewatin, north Baffin or the high Arctic islands should not have it? Would that be just in your experience?

Mr. SEARLE: I think I can just about answer all your questions, Mr. Rhéaume. I do not think this bill for Nunassiat is just at all from considerations of humanity, democracy, justice or anything else.

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): May we have your reasons for stating this, Mr. Searle?

Mr. SEARLE: First of all, I would mention the fact of being administered from outside the territory. If we go back even to the days of British colonialism we at least had the general or a representative, a senior government official, governing the colony. We do not even seem to be getting that for Nunassiat. There still would be government from here. Secondly, with regard to their council, as I have already pointed out these are two elected members, five appointed members, and a quorum of four is all that is necessary. That is not democracy.

There is definitely a lack of justice in the area of the administration of justice as I have pointed out, in regard to the courts. You can be sued from anywhere in Manitoba or Ontario and compelled to defend here both civilly and criminally. Any judge from Manitoba, from Ontario, from Yellowknife or from Whitehorse could be appointed for a one-shot circuit to try this native. This judge has no experience with Eskimos, or their problems. Our judge has. I think maybe that answers some part of your question.

Mr. RHÉAUME: Mr. Searle, in your experience in the north and from what you know of what occurred in the north, was the division of the Northwest Territories a movement from within the Northwest Territories and a popular demand or was it a suggestion from outside?

Mr. SEARLE: It was definitely no movement from within the Northwest Territories. As a matter of fact, I might say I know what the elected members have said, and I think some have suggested it was; but in my experience it was not a movement from within the Northwest Territories. Few people knew about this prior to a year ago, and certainly almost none understood it. All they heard was "division is good"; there were never any reasons given why it was good. Certainly a case against division was never presented.

I think I can fairly answer that by saying no, this was not something we thought of; it is not something we have been asked about; and it is not something we want. The Eskimos have not been asked; they are not represented; and they never have been.

Mr. DINSDALE: You are representing the chamber of commerce?

Mr. SEARLE: The board of trade.

Mr. DINSDALE: Have you any authority to speak on behalf of the Yellowknife council?

Mr. SEARLE: The town council?

Mr. DINSDALE: The town council.

Mr. SEARLE: No, I did not, and I do not speak on their behalf.

Mr. DINSDALE: There was some intimation that the mayor and council would have liked to have appeared before a committee of this kind. You have no authority to represent them? The board of trade had no conference with the councillors?

Mr. SEARLE: No, we had not.

Mr. DINSDALE: I suppose some of the councillors would be members of the board of trade?

Mr. SEARLE: I would be willing to say that just about every businessman in Yellowknife is a member of the board of trade, and certainly so far as those members of the town council are businessmen they would be members of the board of trade, but I do not believe there are any councillors on the executive. I just could not say what the town council would think. I would hope they would be influenced by their business associates.

Mr. DINSDALE: Would you say there is still a desire on the part of the council and the mayor to be heard before this committee, or do they regard your representations as adequate and sufficient?

Mr. SEARLE: I am afraid I cannot say whether they want to be heard and I certainly have no authority to speak for them. Therefore I cannot say that they agree with my representations; they may very well disagree. I do not think they would disagree; however, they might.

Mr. DINSDALE: The reason I am asking you these questions is that when I was the responsible minister it was the town council and the mayor who were pressing the importance of this committee, and I was just wondering if there was still that interest on the part of the council. I take it that you are entirely in favour of the general principle of greater autonomy of the Northwest Territories?

Mr. SEARLE: Entirely.

Mr. DINSDALE: As you know, the legislation as drafted is largely the recommendation of the Northwest Territories council. I think you have intimated that in your presentations.

Mr. SEARLE: I say that is one of the suggested justifications for it. That is how it has been justified; but with great respect I submit that few certainly of the elected members would have suggested this legislation. They do not know what it is about. They did not know what it was about when it was put out. This is not something suggested by them, I believe.

Mr. DINSDALE: I would not like to speculate along those lines because we have had members of the council before us. Would you say that had there been representation on the council from the eastern Arctic there might have been stronger voices of dissent in respect of division than appeared during the two or three council sessions which considered this matter of autonomy?

Mr. SEARLE: The only thing I can say is that certainly if I were representing the eastern Arctic I would not buy this bill, and for the reasons I have given, and I do not see how any responsible member, had there been one on that council, could have done so.

Mr. DINSDALE: You have made the point that most of the residents in the eastern Arctic are Eskimo. Would you say that the Eskimo population at the moment is qualified by its present level of education to exercise a franchise and to determine its own destiny in this respect?

Mr. SEARLE: I certainly think the Eskimos are qualified to elect their own representatives and I think they should do this. They should be allowed to do this. I might give you an example of just how these natives can be responsible. I prosecuted a case not longer than three weeks ago in Fort McPherson which is up in the Delta area of the western Arctic; it was a jury trial. This was a trial with regard to which we had six jurors put forward, and of these six jurors there were three Indians, two white men and one Eskimo. The foreman of that jury was an Indian. This jury considered the evidence put forward and, after the conclusion of argument, they took 15 minutes to return a verdict which, according to everyone—and, mind you, it was in my favour—the defence counsel, the judge and resident observers was a fair, just and responsible act. The board of trade feels these people do have a place in our society. They certainly have in the north. They are responsible, and if they can execute a function such as sitting and judging another man's fate they can certainly cast an intelligent ballot for someone to represent them to consider problems like this.

Mr. RHEAUME: Do you believe that within the Northwest Territories there are enough capable and responsible people to meet the demands of a fully elective council?

Mr. SEARLE: There is no doubt in my mind; there are.

Mr. RHEAUME: You would disagree with the suggestion of the Northwest Territories council that we need appointed members because of the lack of experience?

Mr. SEARLE: Yes, I would disagree; we do not need them.

Mr. DINSDALE: Residents of the eastern Arctic were given the federal franchise two years ago; how would you say they have exercised this franchise? Would you say they have done it with reasonable intelligence?

Mr. SEARLE: I think they have.

Mr. RHÉAUME: Without examining the results of the polls would you say they have?

Mr. SEARLE: You are putting me on the spot.

Mr. DINSDALE: You seem to suggest in your statement that one of the reasons you would be against division at this time is that these residents of the eastern Arctic had not been given a voice in this decision, and one of your strong points, it appears to me, is that they should have had a say as to where their future destiny lay in respect of Canada.

Mr. SEARLE: Yes. After all, they are the ones that are being corralled into this territory called Nunassiat.

Mr. RHÉAUME: Are you satisfied with the present stipends offered to the present territorial councillors?

Mr. SEARLE: I am not so sure what it is at present. And, I am not so sure that an increase would attract better men because what really is necessary here is to give them some responsibility. I, for one, would not run for election to the territorial council, to be quite honest with you, because I know there are four appointed members. I might be one of five elected. If you played off the appointed members effectively, then you at least could get one or two elected votes, and if your appointed members vote in a block you could control the council, or the commissioners. In any case, the council is merely an advisory group and does not have to accept their advice. Although these people may be elected and representative I do not feel they are not responsible.

Mr. NIELSEN: Under existing legislation the indemnity shall not exceed \$1,000 per year per councillor, according to section 12 of the act.

Mr. SEARLE: Yes. But, a businessman may find he is away ten days, which is about the average, for two sittings a year, five days each time.

Mr. RHÉAUME: It is 10 days each time.

Mr. SEARLE: Well, that certainly is not much compensation, particularly if you are in a profession, where you certainly would lose considerably more than that by being away from your office.

Mr. TURNER: Is not the amount \$2,000?

Mr. NIELSEN: \$1,000 in the Northwest Territories, unless it has been changed.

Mr. W. G. BROWN (*Deputy Commissioner of the Northern Territories*): Mr. Chairman, it is \$100 a day, with a maximum of \$2,000 per year.

Mr. TURNER: Mr. Searle, how long have you practised law in Yellowknife?

Mr. SEARLE: I have practised law there approximately 1½ years to date.

Mr. TURNER: For how long since you have started practising law have you lived in Yellowknife?

Mr. SEARLE: Possibly I could run over this. I went to Yellowknife in 1946 and stayed there until I commenced university. To put it another way, I have been in Yellowknife since 1946, with the exception of six years for my professional training.

Mr. TURNER: Did you start your professional training in Yellowknife?

Mr. SEARLE: No; I took law and arts at the University of Alberta and articulated in Calgary; the day after I was admitted I returned to Yellowknife.

Mr. TURNER: Which is 1½ years ago?

Mr. SEARLE: Yes.

Mr. TURNER: Have you lived at any other place in the Northwest Territories other than Yellowknife?

Mr. SEARLE: I have not resided as such.

Mr. TURNER: But you have visited them on circuit?

Mr. SEARLE: Yes, every week or two.

Mr. TURNER: Your home always has been in Yellowknife?

Mr. SEARLE: Yes, it has.

Mr. TURNER: Did you represent the board of trade of Yellowknife before the Northwest council when the board of trade presented a brief to the Northwest council on this division?

Mr. SEARLE: No.

Mr. NIELSEN: Were you asked to?

Mr. SEARLE: Not to my knowledge; I was not personally asked and I do not know if the board of trade was asked.

Mr. TURNER: My understanding is that the board of trade of Yellowknife presented a brief to the Northwest council on the matter of this division, objecting to only the choice of the capital.

Mr. SEARLE: I have no knowledge of that. That is certainly in line with my argument, if they did.

Mr. TURNER: It is my understanding that in that brief, when the board of trade of Yellowknife was given an opportunity of appearing before the council respecting this legislation, they made no other arguments other than those going to the choice of capital.

Mr. SEARLE: That could very well be. As I have said this matter of division has been somewhat hazy. It did not start in the north; it has come to the north sort of by word of mouth and passed along. All we were ever told is it is a good thing for you, buy it, not why it is a good thing and not why it is a bad thing. It is just of late we have started to think about it.

Mr. TURNER: I am suggesting to you the board of trade of Yellowknife, whom you represent today, had an opportunity to appear before the Northwest council and did appear, and in its brief only objected to the choice of capital.

Mr. SEARLE: That may be so; I have no knowledge of it.

Mr. TURNER: Assume there is a division, would you not feel that the Mackenzie territory—and let us not argue at the moment about the name—with more of a representative government, could progress faster as a more coherent unit geographically than it is progressing today.

Mr. SEARLE: I do not know whether you can say that. As I have already pointed out, Mr. Turner, we do not know what the minerals are in the east. Exploration is going on for iron ore and there may be base metals and gold there as well; we do not know. When we talk in terms of progress, do you mean today, this year? I am talking in terms of 10 or 20 years. In 10 or 20 years we might find that the minerals in the east are in production and are being exploited quicker, and we want to have the advantage of it.

Mr. TURNER: That brings me to a remark you made in your statement. You want to have advantage in this. You mentioned having an advantage of the taxes that would accrue from this. Would that perhaps not imply that people of Yellowknife are worried, by reason of this division, that their own taxes would go up?

Mr. SEARLE: This is not the case until you reach the state of provincial status. Merely dividing the territory does not mean this would occur in the foreseeable future.

Mr. TURNER: I am asking for your comments on the fact. If you people from Yellowknife are worried about being deprived of the tax revenue from the eastern Arctic, you might be worried about your own taxes going up.

Mr. SEARLE: We are also worried about the Eskimos and the way they have retreated. I do not think we are particularly worried about taxes.

Mr. TURNER: I just brought it up because you had something to say about it in your evidence.

Would you have favoured the division of territories if the eastern Arctic residents had been represented on the Northwest Territories council and had favoured the division?

Mr. SEARLE: You mean the bill as it stands?

Mr. TURNER: The two bills as they stand.

Mr. SEARLE: No, I would not.

Mr. TURNER: Suppose the eastern Arctic had been represented by elected representatives and they had agreed to this division, would you have objected to it in the same terms today?

Mr. SEARLE: The board of trade, would have, I think. Surely, Mr. Turner, they could not agree with the provisions as they are outlined. How could they properly represent the constituency and agree to no justice and to no democracy?

Mr. TURNER: On this question of no democracy, do you not feel that representative government in the Mackenzie part of the territories is increasing with an increase in the elected over the appointed number of members?

Mr. SEARLE: We get one more.

Mr. TURNER: Then it is better than it was.

Mr. SEARLE: Considerably better; we had four elected and five appointed members; now we have five elected and four appointed. That is progress.

Mr. Lang and the other councillors from the Northwest Territories hope that in due course the proportion will be six to three and seven to two, and so on, over a period of years, towards a fully elected council.

May I ask you one question in this regard?

The CHAIRMAN: You can only ask a question for clarification.

Mr. SEARLE: Then I will not ask it.

Mr. TURNER: Is it because you assume I could not clarify the situation?

Mr. SEARLE: Your questions are very clear.

Mr. NIELSEN: In all fairness to the councillors who have given evidence before the committee,—and it refers to Mr. Searle, too—there is doubt in my mind whether there is complete unanimity of thought about the four Northwest Territories elected councillors; that they would not be happy with a wholly elected council.

Mr. TURNER: That may be, but I think the testimony will speak for itself. I am sure Mr. Searle has had an opportunity of reading the testimony.

Mr. SEARLE: I did not have that opportunity.

Mr. RHÉAUME: We have not read it ourselves; how could he have? It has not been sent to me.

Mr. TURNER: It was sent to me five days ago.

Mr. RHÉAUME: I have not seen it.

The CHAIRMAN: I got mine a few days ago.

Mr. TURNER: I got all my testimony of the Northwest Territories councillors.

We got distracted here, please excuse me, Mr. Searle. Would you not say that the position of the eastern Arctic today in terms of its ability to proceed towards a representative government is about the same as the Mackenzie area was 10 or 20 years ago, and that these things have to be done gradually?

Mr. SEARLE: I do not know whether I would say that. You are educating these people very quickly now, and when you educate children they talk to their parents. I think they are becoming educated and responsible much more quickly than we give them credit for. I can only say what I have already said, and that is that I believe they are responsible enough to elect whom they want to serve on this council.

Mr. TURNER: I am suggesting to you that in giving the eastern Arctic two elected representatives, and perhaps more as a result of these committee hearings, that there is progress towards a representative government. If you look at the development of the Northwest Territories as it split off into Alberta, Saskatchewan, and then to the Yukon and the Northwest Territories, and now perhaps into the Mackenzie and Nunassiat, you will see that you are having a general progression of representative government over the whole of that great territory, and it has to be done gradually.

Mr. SEARLE: I agree that giving them any representation at all is progress. They did not have it before, and now you are giving them two. However, having five appointed members can certainly prevent the two elected from having what they want. You can go ahead and give them 50 elected members; as long as you keep 150 appointed. It is still not democracy.

Mr. TURNER: I realize it is not a fully responsible government. What I am suggesting to you is that the whole history of the north has been a gradual

development towards representative and then towards a responsible government in terms of its economic capabilities at the time.

Mr. NIELSEN: It is not even a representative government.

Mr. TURNER: Do you say they are proceeding towards a provincial status in the Northwest Territories and the Mackenzie?

Mr. SEARLE: I most certainly do.

Mr. RHEAUME: The Northwest Territories or the Mackenzie?

Mr. SEARLE: I favour it for the whole of the north.

Mr. TURNER: Suppose, on the basis of the division, Mackenzie were to proceed towards provincial status with more speed, would you be in favour of that, if it were true?

Mr. SEARLE: At the sacrifice of leaving the east as it is set up in the bill? Is that your question?

Mr. TURNER: Not necessarily at the sacrifice of having the east develop along in due course behind, but allowing the more advanced part of the territory to gain a provincial status first.

Mr. SEARLE: No. I believe we can go ahead together at the same rate. I do not think it is a matter of choice. I do not think you have to choose "shall we at this time go ahead quickly or shall we hold it back?" We can move both ahead to provincial status at the same rate of speed.

Mr. RHEAUME: Do you believe the north can progress quicker if the two stayed together than if they were divided?

Mr. SEARLE: Yes, especially if there is mineral development in the eastern Arctic.

Mr. TURNER: May I continue my line of questioning? Would you say that you spoke on behalf of the Yellowknife board of trade when you agreed that your eventual purpose is provincial status?

Mr. SEARLE: Yes, most definitely that was one point they stressed.

Mr. TURNER: Under the subject of the permanent officials of the department of northern affairs, if these bills were to pass and the Mackenzie area were to get a resident commissioner and a more representative government, would you not consider that the role of the federal civil servant would gradually diminish and the territorial civil service gradually increase?

Mr. SEARLE: That has not been the history so far.

Mr. TURNER: No, but would you not say that the eventual purpose, when the representative government is granted to the Mackenzie area, would be that the federal aspect would gradually withdraw?

Mr. NIELSEN: It had 60 years to do so in the Yukon, and it has not done so yet.

Mr. SEARLE: I do not know what is going to happen in 40 or 50 years' time. I just say that we should not go ahead now with this.

Mr. TURNER: I am just putting that question to you. The comment which you made underlined a real but unrevealed reason.

Mr. SEARLE: I would say that I hesitate to suggest this, but it looks like it.

Mr. TURNER: You said that the real but hesitatingly advanced reason for the division was that the federal civil servants wished to retain an empire over the north, and I am suggesting to you that if these bills go through the effect will be just the contrary, the civil service federally oriented will withdraw from the Mackenzie Territory because it will be more representative, and you will have an opportunity for more territorial government in the west.

Mr. SEARLE: And the Nunassiat territory will remain there for time immemorial.

Mr. TURNER: Not necessarily. Surely that would develop in the same course of events, given economic advancement.

Mr. SEARLE: It will develop faster if it were going with us together.

Mr. TURNER: If the eastern Arctic were to develop, a representative process will be accorded to those people as well. You are not trying to assume that the federal civil service wishes to keep the north in perpetual tutelage?

Mr. SEARLE: I do not know what their intention is. I have no idea. I am not told.

Mr. TURNER: Your hesitatingly advanced reason was an assumption?

Mr. SEARLE: It definitely was an assumption.

Mr. TURNER: On the question of the capital being placed at Yellowknife, if the territories were to be divided, would that not mean an overcentralization of all business, commerce and government electivity, to one centre to the detriment of other centres?

Mr. SEARLE: I do not know whether it would be to the detriment of other centres. It certainly would be a centralization in Yellowknife, because that is where the major business and professional groups are. That is where the two prosperous mines are. There certainly would be a centralization there. This is why we suggest it should be at Yellowknife. Certainly we are the only settlement which can afford an administrative group which would come into the north in such a way without making the town wholly reliant upon them. We are in the best position from that point of view, and, as I pointed out, Yellowknife is central and communications from Yellowknife are excellent. We must have five or six charter air services going out of Yellowknife which makes communication to any part of the Northwest Territories almost instant.

Mr. TURNER: Would you think it might be helpful if you were to divide the business and territorial administration among two or three centres, rather than centralize it in one place?

Mr. SEARLE: As I said, we would like to see it in Yellowknife, but we are not basing our whole submission on this. We just want it in the north. We do not care where you put it; you could put it at Baker Lake, Hay river, or Fort Smith. We would like it at Yellowknife, but just put it in the north.

Mr. DINSDALE: The mayor of Yellowknife was quite adamant on this point that Yellowknife should be the capital.

Mr. SEARLE: The mayor of Yellowknife has been adamant about this; that is why he has been mayor.

Mr. TURNER: If the territories were to be divided, what would be the one geographical link, one with the other? Would there be a geographical link?

Mr. SEARLE: A link to where? From the west to where?

Mr. TURNER: Would there be a unity in terms of geography? Take the west as a divided territory, on the assumption you were to divide it, would there be a common geographical unity in the west hinging upon the river system and the lake system which drains into the river?

Mr. SEARLE: I do not know how unified the river system is. A lot of settlements have grown up along it. Certainly, when I first went into the north the river system began at Waterways and McMurray in the province of Alberta. Everything came via that route up through Fort Smith which was the reason for the existence of Fort Smith and then went on to Yellowknife. Oil came down from Norman Wells to Yellowknife, and still does; but now with the road into Yellowknife that water system is not so important because certainly there are few barges and very little merchandise which comes up this river system. It is almost all done by road now.

The water system from McMurray to Yellowknife is not nearly as important as it was. The water system from Yellowknife on to Fort Providence through to the Arctic still is important for its settlements along there, but I think air surely is the thing which is important.

Mr. TURNER: Does most of the population not live around the two large lakes that are drained out by the river system into the Arctic; Great Slave lake and Great Bear lake?

Mr. SEARLE: Certainly Great Slave lake. There are no people on Great Bear.

Mr. TURNER: I am suggesting to you there is a geographical unity and if you were to find a name for the territory, surely Mackenzie would be as good as any other name. I have no brief in respect of this, except for the name of that great explorer. Have you any other names?

Mr. SEARLE: We could name it in the name of the late president; we could do all sorts of things. I suggest that is just as good. However, I prefer Northwest Territories.

Mr. RHÉAUME: As it now stands, is there any real geographical link between Banks island and Great Slave lake?

Mr. SEARLE: No; I do not see one. I do not pretend to know everything about the north; but I cannot see the link you suggest, Mr. Turner. In the past water transport was very, very important, but it is not nearly so important now with the amount of air travel and the number of roads we are getting in. We hope that some day that road will be extended in to Fort Simpson and along the Mackenzie. Certainly with rail now coming into the Pine Point area, water is not the key to the north; it is air, road and rail now.

Mr. TURNER: I am speaking in terms of one of the territories and am suggesting the name "Mackenzie" is as good a name as any which can be found.

Mr. SEARLE: We do not like it.

Mr. TURNER: The Yellowknife board of trade does not like it?

Mr. SEARLE: That is right.

Mr. TURNER: If these territories were to be divided—and I have read the bills carefully—would you be crown prosecutor of the whole of the territories or just of the Mackenzie, if you were reappointed?

Mr. SEARLE: I suppose I would be crown prosecutor of only the Mackenzie Territory which, fortunately, would leave me free to defend in the Nunassiat territory.

Mr. TURNER: Whenever you were retained.

Mr. SEARLE: There has to be someone to stick up for the Eskimo's rights.

Mr. TURNER: Suppose the territories were not divided, do you think the Yellowknife board of trade would be satisfied with a resident commissioner, say, at Frobisher Bay, or Baker lake?

Mr. SEARLE: My instructions are we would be satisfied with a commissioner anywhere within the Northwest Territories; I do not care where you put him. You could almost put him in Alberta, if you want to, which is the location of Fort Smith.

Mr. TURNER: If there were to be a province established some day in the north, would you consider the Yukon should be part of that provinciality?

Mr. SEARLE: There has been talk about this. This has been bandied around; but I just am not prepared to give an opinion on that; I just do not know.

Mr. TURNER: Are you prepared to give any advice at the moment in respect of whether the projected Mackenzie Territory or the projected Nunassiat territory are capable economically of provincial status at the moment?

Mr. SEARLE: We never had that information. This is something which we very much would like to know, as a matter of fact; that is, how much is received in tax revenue by the federal government from, say Norman Wells where the oil is, or from Yellowknife where the gold mines are, and from the rest of the territory, and how much in turn is expended for justifiable territorial means.

Mr. TURNER: I am prepared to yield at the moment, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. WATSON (*Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): I understood, Mr. Searle, from earlier testimony that one of the chief reasons for dividing up the Northwest Territories was that for the Nunnassiaq area the line of communications would be simpler if they ran north and south. That was my understanding. I do not know where I have misunderstood the testimony of some of the people who were here earlier. Is this also your understanding?

Mr. SEARLE: This is one of the reasons, possibly, which I did not mention; it never occurred to me. However, I understand it is one of the reasons because of supplying the eastern Arctic.

Mr. WATSON (*Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): I understood it would be easier to supply and administer the eastern Arctic from Ottawa than have to go all the way from Ottawa to Yellowknife, or wherever the headquarters of the Northwest Territories or Mackenzie Territory was, and then branch out from there east again.

Mr. SEARLE: I do not see why you cannot administer from Yellowknife or order from Yellowknife and supply from Ottawa.

Mr. WATSON (*Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): The understanding that I had after hearing a number of councillors from the Northwest Territories testify was that some of the red tape would be cut by this division.

Mr. SEARLE: I agree with you on that point wholeheartedly because we would be getting a commissioner in the Mackenzie. But our position is that we do not want just a commissioner in Mackenzie for the Mackenzie Territory; we want a commissioner in the Northwest Territories for the whole of the Northwest Territories which would also cut red tape, and serve the purpose of decentralization, about which we feel much more strongly.

Mr. WATSON (*Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): Do you have any idea what percentage of earned income in the Northwest Territories is derived from federal expenditures.

Mr. SEARLE: I have no idea. When it comes to figures with respect to taxes received, taxes expended, and incomes, we do not have any figures. I do not know if studies or surveys have ever been made.

Mr. WATSON (*Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): Another point is this: I understand from earlier testimony that practically the entire white population of the eastern Arctic is employed by the federal government, and that there are about 800 whites there, all employees of defence.

Mr. SEARLE: I do not think I said that. I do not know. From travelling into the small settlements there are usually R.C.M.P., Hudson's Bay men, the administrator, the Oblate Fathers, and religious people to be found, and in the very small settlements, among those who are white people, there might be a forest ranger and that type of person, but that is about it.

In the larger settlements, for example at Frobisher bay, there are a few people who are not civil servants. But whoever said it is probably right in saying that most of them are.

Mr. WATSON (*Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): Do you not feel that there is on this point alone reason for splitting up the territory, in that in the western Arctic you find quite a number of private businesses

and industries; whereas in the eastern Arctic it is at the stage of its development where it is purely a question of having government employees in the area, something which is not true of the western, but which is true of the eastern Arctic?

Mr. SEARLE: I do not feel that the existence of 1,500 civil servants in the eastern Arctic justifies this division at all because, after all, the government of the north, be it east or west, is surely for the people of the north and not for the civil servants who are there. And these people are the Indians and the Eskimos.

Mr. WATSON (*Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): If I understand it correctly, the population of the Nunassiaq Territory is around 7,000 Eskimos and 5,000 Indians.

Mr. SEARLE: I do not know how you break it down. I was told by a councillor from Yellowknife, speaking of figures which were supplied to him, that there were approximately 25,000 in the whole north, of whom, somewhere between 10,000 to 12,000 would be in the eastern Arctic. I do not know how you break that down.

Mr. TURNER: I could break it down. In the Nunassiaq Territory there are 7,250 approximately, of whom 5,500 are Eskimo, and the rest are non-Eskimos, whites.

Mr. RHÉAUME: There are no Indians there.

Mr. WATSON (*Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): You mentioned during your testimony you felt that there was a lot to worry about as far as the treatment of Eskimos was concerned. What do you find wrong at the moment about the treatment of Eskimos in the eastern Arctic.

Mr. SEARLE: I said that we have a lot to worry about with regard to the treatment of Eskimos, and when I said that I think I was specifically referring to justice. I can enlarge on that by saying that in my experience—which after all is not that great, gained from only a year-and-one-half possibly in travelling around with the court—in travelling around with the court which has been constituted since 1955 I have found the treatment of the Eskimo to be considerably different from the treatment of whites, when it comes to punishment and confinement. Eskimos are not used to confinement, and they find it a considerable hardship. Mind you, we whites are not used to confinement in terms of being placed in cells, but the Eskimos are more used to roaming about and living a semi nomadic existence. Hence the thinking of the judge in giving sentences which are considerably lighter than would be imposed down here. I am not trying to justify his decisions, but this is the feeling he has in this area.

Mr. WATSON (*Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): You feel it might not be the case if justice were administered otherwise?

Mr. SEARLE: I do not see how taking an ex officio judge, anyone of 41, on an ad hoc basis and rushing him up to take one trial, and rushing him back—I do not see how this one judge could possibly deal with the situation.

You see, when you are dealing with Eskimos, they do not even have words in their language for guilty or not guilty. If you ask them about something they will normally indicate to you that they did it, because they are pretty obliging, and they think that is the answer you want. It is very, very different from the practice of law in the courts here. There is absolutely no resemblance. Therefore special instructions have been adopted by that court.

Mr. DINSDALE: It would appear that an anthropologist would make a much better dispenser of justice than a judge in such a case.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions?

Mr. WATSON (*Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): You mentioned about no justice and no democracy in the eastern Arctic? Do you feel that this bill could be improved by giving voting powers to the Eskimos?

Mr. SEARLE: I certainly feel it could be improved, and it could be scrapped. The bill respecting Nunassiat could be improved, and the act regarding the Northwest Territories which is already in existence, could be amended not as an enactment respecting Mackenzie but leaving it as the Northwest Territories and enlarging its council, and placing there the commissioner in question. That is all you want. You do not want two or three elaborate acts, but just an amendment to the existing act.

Mr. NIELSEN: That opens up a line of questioning I was going to follow. Assume that these bills do not pass, the questions I am about to ask are concerned with provisions of the existing Northwest Territories Act, but which have not been carried over into the new legislation. In the existing Northwest Territories Act members of council elected or appointed are not able to introduce any measures which would amount to what we call a money bill.

What would your thoughts be in this regard if a wholly elected council were provided by the existing Northwest Territories Act?

Mr. LEBOE: How do you spell that, w-h-o-l-l-y or h-o-l-e-y?

Mr. SEARLE: We feel that any step toward provincial status is a good one. This would certainly be such a step, allowing them to institute money bills, as you call them. However, there are certain arguments against this. I think it would be a good idea. I do not know how else you could have the advice of this council made mandatory upon the commissioner unless you give them this authority.

Mr. NIELSEN: Do Indian people who are otherwise qualified sit on juries in the Northwest Territories in respect of capital murder cases where the mandatory sentence is death?

Mr. SEARLE: You are a little bit out of my depth at this time because I have never prosecuted a murder trial in my one-and-one-half years experience there.

Mr. NIELSEN: In your experience would an Indian juror, who is otherwise qualified, be allowed to sit on a murder trial?

Mr. SEARLE: Yes, I would put an Indian juror on my jury for a capital murder case.

Mr. NIELSEN: Are they allowed to sit on a capital murder case?

Mr. SEARLE: Yes.

Mr. TURNER: You have the right to strike, as we do?

Mr. SEARLE: Yes.

Mr. TURNER: What is the practice at the moment in this regard?

Mr. SEARLE: You have your challenges and you merely go through the jury panel and select responsible citizens. When you find someone who is not responsible you challenge him, but the challenge is not related to race, colour of skin or religion. Indians are certainly allowed to sit on juries in capital murder cases.

Mr. NIELSEN: The reason I asked the question was to suggest that if an Indian is responsible enough to determine the guilt or innocence of an individual charged with capital murder, which calls for the death sentence, perhaps you will agree that he is responsible to sit as an elected member of council?

Mr. SEARLE: He certainly is, and in the case we were speaking of here, although this was not a murder charge, I felt that they were responsible.

Mr. NIELSEN: What is your view with regard to the commissioner sitting with the council and having a vote in council proceedings?

Mr. SEARLE: That is just one more appointed member, is it not?

Mr. NIELSEN: Yes.

Mr. SEARLE: I think perhaps that answers your question. I do not agree with the principle of appointed members.

Mr. NIELSEN: At the moment no appeal exists from the final judgment or decision of a mining recorder in respect of any dispute in regard to mining property previous to the issue of a lease to a claim. The same law exists in the Yukon. Do you think there should be an appeal from a mining recorder's decision in such cases?

Mr. SEARLE: I can speak only on behalf of our firm, but we certainly wish that there was such an appeal. However, that may be a selfish answer; I do not know.

Mr. NIELSEN: Has the board of trade considered this question?

Mr. SEARLE: No, the board of trade has not considered this aspect.

Mr. NIELSEN: At present under the Northwest Territories Act, the governor in council by section 9 is the only body that can prescribe the qualifications of those entitled to vote at an election of members of the council. Do you think that that power should reside with the federal government or with the territorial government?

Mr. SEARLE: This is just about one and the same thing unless you change the legislation, if you understand what I mean.

Mr. NIELSEN: That is why I asked the question.

Mr. SEARLE: I think that which qualifies one to vote should be something which merely entitles a native or anyone else to vote. I do not know whether we need to have anyone decide. Possibly it should be set out in the ordinance that Indians and Eskimos should be allowed to vote.

Mr. NIELSEN: Let me put it this way, Mr. Searle. The parliament of Canada decides the qualifications required for an individual to vote in a federal election. The various parliaments of the provinces decide on the qualifications of voters in respect of provincial elections and in the Yukon the territorial council makes this decision by and with the advice and consent of the commissioner. This same situation does not apply in the Northwest Territories. Do you feel that it should apply?

Mr. SEARLE: Yes.

Mr. NIELSEN: Under section 29 of the existing act, and this same provision is carried over into these bills, any superior court in the provinces of Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland may within the province in which its ordinary jurisdiction is exercised, exercise jurisdiction in civil matters respecting persons and property in the territories generally with the same power as a territorial court. Do you think this section should be amended in the existing act if these bills are not passed?

Mr. SEARLE: I believe in respect of civil matters, one should have to institute the action in the jurisdiction in question. In other words, they should be instituted in Nunassiaq or the Mackenzie territory, as the case may be. I do not feel it is quite proper to commence an action in a court house in those provinces which you have mentioned. I do not feel that is right, and I believe this will cause hardship in many cases.

Mr. NIELSEN: In theory, Mr. Searle, would you agree that a plaintiff should be able to commence a suit in St. John's, Newfoundland, requiring the defendant, if he does not want a default judgment filed against him, to appear in that place?

Mr. SEARLE: No.

Mr. TURNER: Mr. Chairman, may I interject in respect of this same subject, with Mr. Nielsen's permission? Suppose you were to amend the bills before this committee or the present act, and insist on jurisdictional rules requiring that an action had to be commenced, or could be defended within the jurisdiction or place of the action, or the residence of the defendant, giving no jurisdictional powers to any other court than one in the Northwest Territories in respect of actions emanating from there, would you be in favour of allowing either the plaintiff or the defendant to retain counsel from outside the territory, from adjacent provinces such as Alberta or Saskatchewan?

Mr. SEARLE: I think that is possible at the present time.

Mr. TURNER: You would not expect them to have to pay an extra legal fee?

Mr. SEARLE: No, not at all.

Mr. NIELSEN: Do you feel, however, Mr. Searle that the territorial council should have powers under the general legislative powers given to them by the federal act to prescribe the conditions under which an outside barrister, or any professional person for that matter, should be admitted to practice in the territories?

Mr. SEARLE: Most certainly.

Mr. NIELSEN: In the territories?

Mr. SEARLE: Most certainly.

Mr. NIELSEN: Is this in existence now?

Mr. SEARLE: Yes. There are professional qualifications outlined, for instance in the legal profession's ordinance.

Mr. NIELSEN: Under the powers given to the council in subsection (d) of section 13 of the existing Northwest Territories Act the council has power to legislate with respect only to controverted elections. Do you feel that power should be amended to include the power to legislate in regard to elections?

Mr. SEARLE: This is something I have never thought about; I will be quite honest. I do not know whether there is any advantage in giving an off-the-cuff opinion. I am afraid I just have not thought about that.

Mr. KINDT: Reverting to the question of the pattern if the Northwest Territories Act was retained but amended in order to give greater elected representation, what in Mr. Searle's view should be the proportion of the elected representatives in the Northwest Territories to appointed representatives?

Mr. SEARLE: The Yellowknife board of trade would like to see all councillors elected.

Mr. RHÉAUME: And none appointed?

Mr. SEARLE: None appointed.

Mr. WATSON (*Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): May I ask a question on this particular point?

The CHAIRMAN: Go ahead.

Mr. WATSON (*Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): Do you say you favour the election of all councillors? Do you not feel there should be appointed councillors? The federal government contributes most of the revenue in the Northwest Territories. Do you not feel in circumstances in which almost all the public works, in fact all the public works, are being paid basically by the

federal government, that the federal government should have one or two or three representatives at least on this council?

Mr. SEARLE: The federal government's domination is complete in any case, is it not? This is merely an advisory council. The commission may or may not take its advice, whether they are all elected or non-elected.

Mr. TURNER: In practical politics, does not the commissioner usually take their advice?

Mr. NIELSEN: On that point, the existing section 15(2) of the Northwest Territories Act provides that any ordinance or provision thereof may be disallowed by the governor in council at any time within two years after its passing. The same situation exists in Yukon. The question for Mr. Searle logically is: with this power of veto, does not the federal government in any event control the purse strings?

Mr. SEARLE: Certainly. The federal government in my opinion has the advantage in about three different ways.

Mr. KINDT: Mr. Searle, I have one other question. I have learned from some of the councillors in the Mackenzie district, having talked to them quietly in the quiet of their homes and elsewhere, that what is needed is a sort of sap flowing both ways in the tree, from the federal government and from the council. If you had them all elected and operating as a separate body without representatives from the federal government, would not a situation grow up in which there would be animosity between the two, lack of understanding between the two, failure of a meeting of minds between the two, which is overcome by a mingling of the forces? What are your views on that?

Mr. SEARLE: My views on that, sir, would be that we would hope if the council were fully elected the commissioner would take the advice of the council and there would not be a conflict.

Mr. RHÉAUME: On the same line of questioning, do you have any reason to believe that a fully elected council composed of northerners would be less careful and less judicious in the expenditure of funds than the present council?

Mr. SEARLE: I submit it might be more responsible.

Mr. TURNER: These are hypothetical questions.

Mr. RHÉAUME: With the projected abandonment of part or all of the distant early warning line with its airports every 50 miles running laterally across the north, do you think another lateral air link is provided between both parts of the Canadian arctic?

Mr. SEARLE: It certainly is. If these abandoned airfields are put to some use—and the use to which we suggest they may be put is for commercial aircraft, bush pilot and otherwise, for refueling and other purposes. This is definitely a lateral link right across the north. If they are turned over to the Department of Transport we would hope, and sincerely hope, that the use by commercial aircraft would be allowed. Otherwise, what use are they?

Mr. RHÉAUME: Right now, Mr. Searle, the islands in James bay and immediately along the coast of Quebec are part of the Northwest Territories. I am going to ask you for an opinion. In your opinion can the government of the Northwest Territories logically—

Mr. TURNER: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, that question is not yet relevant.

Mr. RHÉAUME: Certainly it is relevant. I am asking if the Northwest Territories can administer a certain section.

Mr. TURNER: I withdraw my objection.

The CHAIRMAN: Since we will not have Mr. Searle here again I presume the committee would like to hear his answer.

Mr. RHÉAUME: It is in order, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. TURNER: I withdraw the objection.

Mr. RHÉAUME: Can the administration logically administer and attend to the development of the island of James bay and the littoral islands immediately adjacent to the coast of Quebec?

Mr. SEARLE: First of all may I say this is not one of the points on which I represent the board of trade. If you want my opinion, I can give it.

Mr. RHÉAUME: I would like your opinion as a northerner.

Mr. SEARLE: My own personal opinion is that these islands, being so close to Manitoba, to Ontario and also to Quebec, are more logically administered by these provinces. That is my opinion for what it is worth.

Mr. RHÉAUME: From your experience of travelling in the north, this is your opinion?

Mr. SEARLE: Yes.

Mr. TURNER: May I ask whether in your legal opinion those islands could be given to the province of Quebec by an amendment of these bills?

Mr. SEARLE: I do not know anything about the constitution.

Mr. TURNER: I suggest to you you find you would need another way of doing it.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions?

Mr. TURNER: If I may put another question to Mr. Searle, I would like to do so.

You mentioned using the DEW line air strips, if and when they are vacated, as air strips being maintained by the Department of Transport as a means of lateral communication across the north. Would you feel the maintenance of these strips would depend on the economic commercial feasibility of east-west trade.

Mr. SEARLE: Yes, certainly, but I might point out one thing. I do not know how many of you have bounced around in an Otter or a Beachcraft in that territory.

Mr. TURNER: I had a very precarious time flying with the hon. member for Yukon in that territory.

Mr. SEARLE: There comes a time in that territory when you have to come down, and in one case the judicial party came down on a DEW line site; it simply had nowhere else to land because everywhere else was closed in. I understand at that time we were not supposed to come down on a DEW line strip, but the fact that we did is the only reason we are alive today.

Mr. TURNER: I am suggesting that, economically, the Department of Transport only open up strips or maintain them if there is a commercial or economic feasibility; otherwise it becomes quite a burden on the treasury and would become an unconscionable burden on the territory if the Northwest Territories were to administer these strips themselves. In any event, you spoke about the power of disallowance the government had over the territorial ordinances and legislation.

Mr. SEARLE: I did not say too much about it; I think Mr. Nielsen said more than I did, but I agree.

Mr. TURNER: If I may, as Mr. Nielsen did, put words into your mouth, would you say that power of disallowance is no more or no less than the federal power of disallowance under the British North America Act in respect of provincial legislation?

Mr. SEARLE: I do not know. Have you the answer?

Mr. TURNER: Yes. I would suggest it has.

Mr. NIELSEN: Which is not accurate.

Mr. TURNER: Really, it is not a threat today to provincial autonomy.

Mr. RHÉAUME: Not with a minority government, it is not.

Mr. TURNER: I am going to suggest to you the commissioner is not able to act without action by the council; in other words, the commissioner has no power to pass legislation without the consent of the council. Am I correct in this?

Mr. SEARLE: It would certainly be comforting.

Mr. TURNER: But is that true?

Mr. SEARLE: I think it is.

Mr. TURNER: In other words, unless the council passes legislation the commissioner is powerless, is he not?

Mr. SEARLE: I am not sure.

Mr. TURNER: In other words, the council is more than just an advisory body; it is a legislative body.

Mr. SEARLE: But, their advice need not be accepted.

Mr. TURNER: But it is a legislative body?

Mr. SEARLE: Yes.

Mr. TURNER: But their advice need not be accepted because the commissioner has the same power of disallowance as the governor in council, federally, has over provincial legislation. But, on the other hand, the commissioner is powerless unless the council acts as a legislative body?

Mr. SEARLE: Yes.

Mr. TURNER: I gather that you and the Yellowknife board of trade are in favour of provincial status in the Northwest Territories?

Mr. SEARLE: Eventually we are; we do not demand it now.

Mr. TURNER: I was wondering whether you are aware of quite strong expressions of opinion in Yellowknife, during the consideration of this legislation now before the committee, by the Northwest council, against the legislation because they were under the misapprehension that the proposal to divide was a proposal to set up provinces. Do you recall that?

Mr. SEARLE: Not from me or the board of trade which sent me down here.

Mr. TURNER: But, in Yellowknife itself over the past three years, when this legislation was discussed.

Mr. SEARLE: I do not recall anything like that.

Mr. TURNER: It is my understanding—and I will introduce evidence to this effect—that there was a misapprehension in Yellowknife in respect of the legislation.

Mr. SEARLE: There very well could be some fear of that; however, the Yellowknife board of trade would welcome sometime in the future, when it is economically justifiable, the establishment of a province.

Mr. TURNER: Suppose these bills were to be passed and there was to be a border dividing the two territories, have you any suggestion where the border should go?

Mr. SEARLE: I prefer not to express an opinion on that because I do not think there should be a boundary. I do not know where it should go. I do not know how you can determine where it would go. I just do not think there should be a boundary; it should be left as one.

Mr. TURNER: I have only one further remark to make. The witness said he has had difficulty obtaining figures of revenue and that sort of thing. Before he returns to the north I am going to give him a public document called the report of the advisory committee on government activities in the north for the last four years, in which are published all the reports and expenditures for the whole of the territories and every domain. These are published figures and there is nothing hidden in respect of the revenues or expenditures in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. SEARLE: Is that a question?

Mr. TURNER: No, that is just a statement.

Mr. SEARLE: I will be happy to receive it.

Mr. TURNER: You will get a complimentary copy before you leave.

Mr. WATSON (*Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): Mr. Searle, do you disagree with what I consider to be the chief reason for the division of the territory? My understanding is that the proposed division of the Northwest Territories is to give the western section an immediate push toward self government because of its industrial development to date and it is in a position to assume considerable more self government than it has had to date. The eastern section of the Arctic is being set apart because at the moment the only whites in the area are civil servants and there is no prospect now or in the immediate future of another real industrial development in the eastern Arctic, and that the federal government feels it can and should continue to administer the eastern Arctic directly. Added to this is the north-south communications factor, and the fact that Ottawa and Churchill are closer to the eastern section for administrative purposes than the western Mackenzie river area, I do not know which part of the Mackenzie river area will be headquarters for the administration of the Mackenzie territory but, in any event, Ottawa and Churchill will be closer than whatever town is picked up as the administrative centre of the Mackenzie territory. Do you not feel that these reasons are adequate?

Mr. SEARLE: I am not so sure that they can be justified, in the first place, and in the second place I feel that there are more major considerations to be made than the administrative efficiency; you have to consider justice, which is what the Eskimos are not going to get; you have to consider a little democracy, and I do not feel that it is democratic to give them two elected members. I do not feel it is right to base your federal domination on the eastern Arctic on considerations of 1,500 whites when there are 8,500 or so natives there as well who have certain rights.

Mr. WATSON (*Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): Five thousand.

Mr. SEARLE: Well, if it is 10,000 and there are 1,500 whites, then—

Mr. RHÉAUME: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, and if Mr. Searle does not mind me interrupting him, I think the questioner should know that Baker lake is closer to Yellowknife than Churchill and Frobisher bay is closer to Fort Smith than Ottawa, if you are basing your question on distances. Mention was made that Churchill and Ottawa are closer; that is not right.

Mr. WATSON (*Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): Could you inform us whether or not the line of communications is simpler north and south or east and west, between these points?

Mr. RHÉAUME: Right now east and west, across the distant early warning line, is the simplest communication, and if you refer to mail it is a matter of an extra six hours.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions?

Mr. LEBOE: Mr. Chairman, I have one very simple question. I believe there was a proposal that we will have a secretariat which will be a liaison between the federal government and the provincial governments. I think this is a proposal which will come into being in a very short time, and I was wondering when this does come into being would it not cast quite a different light on the relationship between the Northwest Territories and the federal government as it will certainly between the provinces and the federal government. You have to have a starting point some place where you can actually initiate something from either way, from the federal government's point of view or from the provincial or the territories' point of view.

Mr. SEARLE: I just do not know. This is the first I have heard of such a secretariat. I do not know whether they would make much difference to the north because the federal authorities are dominant there now and will be under this new legislation if it is enacted.

Mr. LEBOE: It is a secretariat which would deal with all the ministers, therefore it would be a pipeline of communication.

Mr. SEARLE: I do not know whether it will help the north at all.

Mr. LEBOE: It will help the provinces.

Mr. SEARLE: I have not met with this idea before. It would require a little more time for me to think about it.

Mr. NIELSEN: I have one observation on Mr. Leboe's question. The territories were not even represented as observers, nor were they permitted to have a representative at the last federal-provincial conference. There is little likelihood of having any such secretariat unless it is by the minister of northern affairs, which still does not put the voice where it should be, in the north.

My question has to do with the establishment, a few years ago, in the Yukon by an amendment to the Yukon Act of an advisory committee on finance. This committee which the commissioner must consult in the preparation of territorial estimates for approval by the department of northern affairs, sits with the commissioner in order to determine budgetary matters. I do not see in the new legislation any provisions for such an advisory committee on finance. Do you feel, whether these bills pass or not, that there should be such a committee established as a step towards having a voice in the financial affairs of the territories?

Mr. SEARLE: First of all, I do not just know what effect it has had in the Yukon. I have never had an opportunity to deal with that. But if it does give a territorial voice with regard to financing, something that the commissioner must recognize, then I am all for it.

Mr. NIELSEN: Do not misconstrue the operation of this committee. The commissioner is obliged to sit with the advisory committee on finance, a committee consisting of three members, but he is not obliged to take their advice. It does give advice to the elected representatives of the people in the financial affairs.

Mr. TURNER: I would suggest that the witness might be very careful as the representative of the Yellowknife board of trade in accepting gratuitously the importation of what happens in the Yukon.

Mr. SEARLE: Certainly this is something on which I have not been instructed by the board of trade. I have been asked for my personal opinions; however I have not studied it. It is not something the board of trade has instructed me on.

Mr. NIELSEN: I was asking for your personal opinion. It was not an intent to fix the opinion of the board of trade.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions?

Mr. TURNER: When you said, Mr. Searle, that you must consider in the administration of the north concepts like democracy and justice do I take you to mean that administratively there is something to be said for the division of the territories?

Mr. SEARLE: No, I think I was quite guarded in that. I think I said I would not even grant that. I think the record will show that. I did not concede there is some advantage administratively. I do not know. As I said, I think you can get from Yellowknife to Frobisher bay as quickly as you can get from Ottawa to Frobisher bay. You can even put it closer at Baker lake, and you can get to Yellowknife quickly and to Frobisher bay quickly.

Mr. WATSON (*Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): Mr. Searle, you expressed ideas about the administration of justice as far as the Eskimos are concerned, in the proposed eastern section. Assume for a second that the mails go through and the territory is split up, do you have any suggestion, or can you make a suggestion now to us, as to how we can safeguard the proper administration of justice so far as the Eskimos are concerned?

Mr. SEARLE: You could of course leave the present territorial court of the Northwest Territories constituted as it now is with jurisdiction over the whole of the Northwest Territories because possibly there is no justification to actually appointing a judge at whatever salary they get for that territory. I do not know whether there is enough work out there for that. Therefore, the logical thing to do is maybe to leave the present court as it is. Certainly that is much better than taking ex officio people from Manitoba or Ontario to go there on a one shot basis. Perhaps that is the answer; I do not know. It is something which could be considered.

Mr. WATSON (*Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): Would it be just as simple if we had the judge in the new Mackenzie Territory travel from his place of residence in the Mackenzie Territory to the eastern section, as it would be for an ex officio judge from Ontario or Manitoba to travel northwards into the area?

Mr. SEARLE: Yes, as we always have done.

Mr. WATSON (*Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): Purely from a practical and administrative point of view.

Mr. SEARLE: It is very simple.

Mr. WATSON (*Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): The judge who is presently in the Northwest Territories and who, in the future if the bills go through, will be in the Mackenzie Territory, very simply could handle justice in the eastern section?

Mr. SEARLE: Very easily. I know this. This is what we have done.

Mr. WATSON (*Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): You think this man, being aware of the local problems, is the logical person to do this?

Mr. SEARLE: If I may anticipate, certainly he too is an ex officio judge as well as a man from Manitoba or Ontario; but I would be willing to say he would not be the one appointed, because there is a section in this new act, section 20, which reads:

All laws of general application in force in the Territories are, except where otherwise provided, applicable to and in respect of Eskimos in the Territories.

This judge does not do that; this judge makes a difference. That section is in that act to override the decisions which this judge has made, and is there to make him and any future judge in Nunassiq administer the laws respecting Eskimos strictly the same as the laws are administered to whites. That is why the section is in there.

Mr. TURNER: That is your assumption?

Mr. NIELSEN: On that particular section, I think the further observation should be made that in no other legislation of a federal nature is a specific race of people singled out and made the subject of Canadian laws when already they are Canadians.

Mr. SEARLE: That is not only my opinion on the basis of reading the act, but also on the basis of reading all the cases decided by that court.

Mr. RHÉAUME: Having established that, if it were practicable and preferable for justice to be administered on the Mackenzie side, would the same not be true of health, welfare and administration matters generally; does the same thing hold true?

Mr. SEARLE: Yes. I have said that all administration should be in the north for the whole of the north; there should be no division.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions?

Mr. RHÉAUME: We have two witnesses from Fort Smith who have not been heard yet. Is it the wish of the committee to sit tonight?

The CHAIRMAN: We have two witnesses from the Fort Smith chamber of commerce, Mr. Coffey and Mr. Roddick.

Mr. TURNER: Before we leave, I would like to point out to Mr. Searle that the present law of the Northwest Territories contains this provision in section 17 (2):

All laws of general application in force in the Territories are, except where otherwise provided, applicable to and in respect of Eskimos in the Territories.

This was amended in 1960 and is part of the act of the Northwest Territories. This amendment was inserted in 1960 and the provision of the new bill the witness is reading is merely a carryover of the 1960 amendment.

The CHAIRMAN: We will meet at eight o'clock.

The committee adjourned until 8 p.m.

EVENING SITTING

MONDAY, December 9, 1963.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, I see a quorum.

This evening we have with us two members of the Fort Smith chamber of commerce. I do not know whether there is one witness who wishes to make the main presentation.

Mr. RHÉAUME: Mr. Chairman, I would like to suggest that we have both these gentlemen and, as the committee directs questions, whoever feels most qualified to answer have the opportunity of answering at that time.

Mr. TURNER: I would prefer that someone be elected to appear first.

Mr. RHÉAUME: I would move that both these men be heard simultaneously.

The CHAIRMAN: It is a practice which sometimes is used when a corporation is giving evidence. Of course, there would be a special witness in one field and a special witness in another. The witnesses among themselves would decide who would answer. However, these two gentlemen are citizens of the north and members of one organization. In order to save time, it might be well to have both of them come up to the head table.

Mr. RHÉAUME: That is what I am thinking. I move that these witnesses be heard together. My motion is seconded by the hon. member for Brandon-Souris (Mr. Dinsdale).

Motion agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Coffey and Mr. Roddick, do you both represent the Fort Smith chamber of commerce?

Mr. A. R. RODDICK (*Member, Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce*): Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: You are members of the chamber of commerce?

Mr. RODDICK: Yes. Both of us are members of the executive.

Mr. J. R. COFFEY (*President, Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce*): I am the president and Mr. Roddick is the immediate past president.

Mr. RHÉAUME: I believe the gentlemen have mimeographed material which is available.

The CHAIRMAN: Usually we permit an exposé in respect of the testimony or the main points of your presentation. Have you something you would wish to present?

Mr. RODDICK: Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: This is information; it is not your wish to read it?

Mr. RODDICK: No.

The CHAIRMAN: Are you making a statement on behalf of the chamber of commerce, Mr. Roddick?

Mr. RODDICK: Yes.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee the papers you have before you now are excerpts from a brief which the Fort Smith chamber of commerce presented to the Northwest Territories council in 1961. These are only highlights which we have extracted from our brief.

In the interests of our area in respect of the future of the territories we requested an opportunity to be heard before this committee to give you any information which is required and which we feel we can provide. Mr. Coffey and I represent the Fort Smith chamber of commerce. This group is a fair cross section of our town. All businessmen are members as well as a fair number of private citizens.

Let me say at the beginning that our main concern is not with the actual division, since we have not had complete information in respect of the complications which would necessarily follow this division. Our main concern is that the administration of our affairs be put into the hands of the people who are resident in the territories, and that the federal government continue and accelerate its program of decentralization.

As Fort Smith now stands, industry, private enterprise and the potential growth of the area are stifled. I believe anyone who looks at a map of the Northwest Territories can see that it is feasible to administer this area from Fort Smith, since the vast majority of the territories is closer to Fort Smith than to Ottawa.

With the \$20 million the federal government already has invested in the settlement, and in the area for the administration of territorial affairs, this should be commenced at once.

This is the prepared brief I have. We are willing to answer any questions.

Mr. KINDT: How far is the site of Fort Smith from the boundary of Alberta, the 60th parallel?

Mr. RODDICK: I do not know the exact distance. I believe it is about half a mile at the closest point.

Mr. KINDT: Is there any thought that if Fort Smith were made into the capital, so to speak, of the Northwest Territories, that there would be any annexation of territory extending into Wood Buffalo park. Would there be any expectation that the townsite might be extended in this direction, or would it be expected that the townsite would go to the north?

Mr. RODDICK: The Slave river runs almost east and west at this point. We have about 16 miles of land in the territories which could be used for future development.

Mr. RHÉAUME: Mr. Roddick or Mr. Coffey, would Fort Smith be a good location for administering all of the Northwest Territories rather than just the Mackenzie? In other words, in your opinion could you administer the Northwest Territories from Fort Smith just as easily as you could administer merely the Mackenzie under the proposed two bills?

Mr. COFFEY: Yes; I think it could be. The distances are not overly great. I believe there are people in the area at this time who would be willing to provide service east or west, north or south, or in any direction people wish to go. We feel that a check into this probably would reveal that present traveling expenses of departmental personnel would not be any more under the new set-up from Fort Smith than they are at present.

Mr. RHÉAUME: Without allowing me to put the words into your mouth, in your opinion could a greater degree of self-government only be achieved by division, or could it be achieved within the Northwest Territories as it now exists; in other words, do you have to divide in order to have self-government?

Mr. COFFEY: No; division is not necessary. We have not had enough information to make a proper exhaustive study or a sensible decision on this one way or the other. However, we feel it could be done from Fort Smith.

Mr. RHÉAUME: I would like some background from Mr. Coffey now. How long have you been in the north?

Mr. COFFEY: Just a little over ten years.

Mr. RHÉAUME: Have you lived right at Fort Smith, or have you lived in other places?

Mr. COFFEY: I lived three years at Fort Rae, which is 100 miles north of Yellowknife.

Mr. RHÉAUME: In your opinion, from what you know of the local people, and the people generally in that area, are they well informed on the issue at stake in respect of the division?

Mr. COFFEY: The answer would have to be no.

Mr. RHÉAUME: In your opinion, do they really in fact understand the division in respect of the Northwest Territories?

Mr. COFFEY: No.

Mr. RHÉAUME: As you know, we have had witnesses before this committee previously. In your opinion are they unanimous in the Fort Smith area. In the south shore area of Great Slave lake and down in your particular community is there unanimity of opinion that this is a good thing for the north?

Mr. COFFEY: No; there are conflicting opinions. There are two fields of thought as I know it. I think that is why the recommendation came forward that we were not too definite one way or the other on the division. The point which is important to us is to have a further say in our governmental affairs, and the continued decentralization of government into that area.

Mr. RHÉAUME: In your opinion is there any reason the territorial council should not have been sitting at Fort Smith for the last two years since it made the decision that this would be a good seat of government, rather than to sit, as you know it did, at Cape Dorset, Inuvik, and in Ottawa a couple of times. Is there any good reason it should not have been sitting at Fort Smith ever since they made the decision?

Mr. COFFEY: The only reason I can see is that the members would have an opportunity to acquaint themselves with the topography of the country, and

perhaps get to know a little more of the people and their problems. Otherwise there is no reason.

Mr. RHÉAUME: Would your chamber of commerce have been in favour of the council, after having made the decision that Fort Smith is the place to meet, if they had implemented that decision and held their council meetings at Fort Smith?

Mr. COFFEY: We would have been very much in favour.

Mr. RHÉAUME: Those are all the questions I have on this item.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any other questions on the matter which was raised just now?

Mr. TURNER: Mr. Coffey, were you president of the Fort Smith chamber of commerce when the brief was presented to the Northwest Territories council?

Mr. COFFEY: No. We rotate office every year.

Mr. TURNER: Were you a member of that chamber of commerce at the time the brief was presented?

Mr. COFFEY: Yes.

Mr. TURNER: Do you recall what was in it, this being a summary of it?

Mr. COFFEY: The brief? Yes.

Mr. TURNER: Was any opposition taken by the chamber of commerce, at the time it presented the brief to the Northwest Territories council, concerning the division of the territories?

Mr. COFFEY: I believe that was our first year of incorporation as a chamber of commerce, and the main concern at that time was the question of the capital.

Mr. TURNER: What year was that?

Mr. COFFEY: That was 1961. I believe the idea first was brought up in 1960 and came before council in 1961.

Mr. TURNER: At that time the chamber of commerce did not have any objection to the division of the territories, or to the legislation?

Mr. COFFEY: It was not that we did not have any opinion; but we were uninformed as are most people up there today.

Mr. TURNER: Have you yourself seen the legislation?

Mr. COFFEY: I have read it.

Mr. TURNER: You have read both bills?

Mr. COFFEY: Yes.

Mr. TURNER: How many members are there in the Fort Smith chamber of commerce?

Mr. COFFEY: There are 28.

Mr. TURNER: Prior to coming down here did you have a meeting?

Mr. COFFEY: Yes, we did.

Mr. TURNER: A full meeting of the chamber?

Mr. COFFEY: Of the executive—nine members.

Mr. TURNER: You did not have a meeting of the full chamber?

Mr. COFFEY: No.

Mr. TURNER: The full chamber did not authorize you to express views on their behalf?

Mr. COFFEY: The only thing we did do was make sure we had checked with better than a majority of the members.

Mr. RODDICK: We received notice to come here at 6.30 Friday night. We left at 3.15 on Saturday afternoon.

Mr. TURNER: Did you not send a telegram earlier to the effect that you wanted to come down?

Mr. RODDICK: That is correct.

Mr. TURNER: So you did have earlier notice?

Mr. RODDICK: I believe our wire could be read. I do not have a copy; but I believe the way it read would not express any thought that we would be called.

Mr. TURNER: But you understood that the committee was meeting?

Mr. RODDICK: We understood the committee was meeting.

Mr. TURNER: So you had notice prior to that which you received on Friday?

Mr. RHÉAUME: On a point of order; when was the notice.

The CHAIRMAN: There is no point of order.

Mr. RHÉAUME: I am making a point of order on his question.

Mr. TURNER: The witness was trying to imply that they had not received any notice they would be testifying before Friday. I believe we received a telegram early last week asking that you have an opportunity to testify.

The CHAIRMAN: There is a point of order on the question he is asking but not on the reply of the witness.

Mr. RHÉAUME: The committee does not need to ask oodles of questions in order to determine when they received notice. The Clerk of the Committee wired them on Friday.

The CHAIRMAN: I think we should let the witness answer the question.

Mr. RHÉAUME: The question was an attempt to establish that they knew they were coming down several days before which is not the fact.

Mr. TURNER: I just want to suggest, Mr. Chairman, that the Fort Smith chamber of commerce had decided to testify well before they received notice from this committee that they would be invited to testify; so, perhaps, their views were determined before they received the notice on Friday. Where is the first telegram, Mr. clerk?

Mr. RHÉAUME: I believe it went directly to you, Mr. Chairman. They sent a telegram saying that if the question of the capital was raised, they wished to be heard.

Mr. TURNER: I recall, Mr. Chairman—

The CHAIRMAN: Is there a messenger here?

Mr. TURNER: I would like to have that earlier telegram.

The CHAIRMAN: Do we have someone whom we can send for my file?

Mr. TURNER: Until I get the telegram I shall leave the point. But I think the telegram will show that the Fort Smith chamber of commerce was prepared to testify before this committee well before receiving notice to testify.

Mr. COFFEY: Yes, we are not denying that. We did send that wire, but we thought we could expect more than from six to eight hours notice to come.

Mr. TURNER: You had more opportunity than just Friday to get the feeling of your members.

Mr. COFFEY: Yes.

Mr. TURNER: You stated in your telegram that the Fort Smith chamber of commerce wanted to testify specifically on the point of the possibility of changing the capital.

Mr. RODDICK: I think you had better wait for the wire I do not remember the exact words of the wire.

Mr. TURNER: Who sent the wire?

Mr. RODDICK: It was signed by the executive.

Mr. TURNER: That was the main point which seemed to indicate that the chamber of commerce wanted to argue, or to defend the location of Fort Smith as the prospective capital of the new Mackenzie Territory. As I understand it now, from the testimony of Mr. Coffey, the Fort Smith chamber of commerce is opposing the principle of the bills. Is that right?

Mr. COFFEY: No.

Mr. TURNER: Would you care to elaborate?

Mr. COFFEY: I said we take no strong stand on it one way or another. The only thing we are immensely interested in is that we feel that decentralization of the government should take place with all speed.

Mr. TURNER: Is there an elected member on the Northwest Territories council representing Fort Smith area?

Mr. COFFEY: No.

Mr. RHÉAUME: No. There is no elected member, because the council has expired.

The CHAIRMAN: I believe that is a known fact.

Mr. RHÉAUME: The witness should not be answering a question like that.

Mr. TURNER: I suggest that since this committee does not have a committee counsel who could object to questions, perhaps Mr. Rhéaume would allow me to pursue my questions.

Mr. RHÉAUME: On a point of order, the question was "Is there an elected representative on the Northwest Territories council representing the Fort Smith area?". Mr. Coffey I am sure would have answered in fact that the territorial council expired on the 21st of November, and there is no elected representative.

Mr. TURNER: I think all the members of the committee know that the mandate of the Northwest Territories council expired on November 21.

Mr. RHÉAUME: I am flabbergasted at why he asked the question, then.

Mr. TURNER: Prior to that you had an elected representative on the council from the Fort Smith area. What constituency is it in?

Mr. COFFEY: Mackenzie south.

Mr. TURNER: And who is that gentleman?

Mr. COFFEY: Mr. Kaeser.

Mr. TURNER: Did you know Mr. Kaeser's views respecting the prospective bills dividing the territory?

Mr. COFFEY: Yes.

Mr. TURNER: Would you agree with me when I suggest that he was in favour of those bills?

Mr. COFFEY: That is right.

Mr. TURNER: He stated it before this committee, and that as far as he knew the people in the constituency shared that opinion. Would that be a fair statement?

Mr. COFFEY: With what he said, yes.

Mr. TURNER: I have no further questions at the moment.

Mr. WATSON (*Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): You mentioned earlier that the council met at several different locations in the north. Do you feel this to be a good practice, that they should rotate around the whole of their jurisdiction in holding their council meetings?

Mr. COFFEY: Yes, possibly, with the powers that they had and the representation that they had, I think so. But if it became a matter of a wholly elected council, no. Probably they have been around to most places now.

Mr. WATSON (*Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): On page 2 you outline the organizations which you have in Fort Smith. I notice there are about 10 to 12 of them. I would like to know whether the local Indian population belong to any of those organizations, or participate in any of their activities?

Mr. COFFEY: Yes, in certain ones. The local natives in Fort Smith are pretty much the same as they are everywhere else in the territories. Up until six or seven months ago there was practically no education for them, but this has caught on with great speed now under the department of northern affairs, and there has been quite a nice change towards the native population taking more active part in affairs. Yes, that is quite evident.

Mr. WATSON (*Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): You think that social integration is taking place through these activities?

Mr. COFFEY: Yes.

Mr. WATSON (*Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): I have an unrelated question. It was mentioned earlier—I do not know which one of you gentlemen said this—that the uncertainty of government policy was retarding business development in Fort Smith. What did you mean by that?

Mr. COFFEY: There are a number of businesses at the present time in Fort Smith which are planning expansion and they do not know whether or not to go ahead with it at present. I mean they have been held up for two years now, waiting to find out whether or not the capital is to be at Fort Smith or elsewhere.

Mr. WATSON (*Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): So it is a question of the capital?

Mr. COFFEY: Yes.

Mr. GRANGER: It is not a question of the division of the territories?

Mr. COFFEY: No, it is not.

Mr. KINDT: In your first statement you made a remark about indecisions stifling private enterprise. Was your reference there to administration of affairs under northern affairs, or to something which is in these bills? Could you elaborate on that?

Mr. RODDICK: The indecision is from these two bills which are before the house.

Mr. KINDT: Why? Is it a fact, or did you have anything in the back of your mind concerning the way in which the territories are administered?

Mr. RODDICK: In making that statement?

Mr. KINDT: Do you feel that the administration is efficiently run in the Northwest Territories, and that they are operating there and giving good government and pushing development?

Mr. RODDICK: I did not say that, sir.

Mr. KINDT: Did you imply that it was not? Did you imply by your remark that there was indecision stifling private enterprise?

Mr. RODDICK: No. The indecision stifling private enterprise was entirely concerned with the bill, having to do with the question of the capital for the territory.

Mr. KINDT: I want to get this point clear: in other words, what you are saying is that since the bill has been set up naming Fort Smith as the capital, until it passes the development of private enterprise and everything else would be at a standstill?

Mr. RODDICK: It would certainly be hampered, but it would not be at a standstill.

Mr. KINDT: So that is your thought about the stifling of private enterprise.

Mr. RODDICK: It was just the expansion of present enterprise.

Mr. KINDT: Do you think that the expansion of private enterprise is entirely contingent upon the passing of this bill?

Mr. RODDICK: No, it is not entirely contingent on the passing of this bill, but it would be speeded up considerably if—as I said further on in my prepared remarks—the federal government could continue and accelerate the program of decentralization.

Mr. KINDT: I have one other thought: from your brief here it is clear—and also to anyone who has ever been at Fort Smith—with the resources that you have there, the fact that it is free from permafrost, and that you have a good covering of trees, and that you can grow vegetables with potatoes two feet high, and with your elevation in the frosty period—that matters of that kind give to Fort Smith an ideal climate much better than that of areas further south with higher elevation. It is these things which you try to bring out in your brief justifying it as being the logical spot for being made the seat of government. Is that your thought?

Mr. RODDICK: The seat of government, yes.

Mr. KINDT: Did you also bring out the amount of investment which is there? The figure you gave is \$20,000,000. That is not all at Fort Smith is it?

Mr. RODDICK: I am not prepared to state that there is definitely \$20,000,000, but it would be awfully close to it.

Mr. KINDT: Do you mean that that is the figure of investment at Fort Smith?

Mr. RODDICK: At Fort Smith, yes.

Mr. WATSON (*Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): That would work out to \$10,000 per person with a population of 2,000 people at Fort Smith. That is just a comment.

Mr. DINSDALE: I would like to ask these two gentlemen what they consider to be the main reason why Fort Smith should be chosen as the capital of the new decentralized government in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. RODDICK: There were four settlements considered, but two of these settlements were wiped out by flood conditions last spring. I believe the government—comparing it to private business—would be very silly to put all its eggs in one basket at Yellowknife, and to waste \$20,000,000 that they already have in Fort Smith, because this would be a waste. I do not think that private enterprise could even fill up the warehouses and office buildings, the schools, the 96—I believe it is 96 although I could be wrong in this—housing developments for their employees. Have you anything to add?

Mr. COFFEY: No.

Mr. DINSDALE: The population now is 2,000. What has been the rate of population growth in recent years, or in the past decade.

Mr. RODDICK: I first went to Fort Smith in 1953 as a member of the mounted police. The population at that time I believe would be—I am just guessing but I imagine it was 800.

Mr. DINSDALE: So it has doubled in 10 years, or more than doubled. Is there much agricultural potential in the area?

Mr. RODDICK: I believe there is potential, if there is capital.

Mr. DINSDALE: Would this population increase be due to government employees or private entrepreneurs?

Mr. RODDICK: That depends on a lot of circumstances. I do not care to answer it.

Mr. DINSDALE: Have you noticed in the years you have been there a substantial increase in the number of private businesses and private enterprise of various kinds?

Mr. RODDICK: Since 1956 there has been a definite increase. In 1956 we had an hotel built, and we had a logging operation. Many of you have probably heard about it. It was the Denis Logging, but it is no longer operating. Then we built a new school which was completed that year; we built an extension to the hospital last year or two years ago; we have a new cathedral and a new theatre built in 1956.

Mr. KINDT: Is there a junior college going up there now?

Mr. RODDICK: It is in the process of being built now.

Mr. DINSDALE: With the completion of the Pine Point Railway next year do you consider that this would have a considerable impact on the Fort Smith area? Would you anticipate an eventual rail link at Fort Smith?

Mr. RODDICK: We hope to get a road first.

Mr. DINSDALE: What distance is Pine Point from Fort Smith in miles?

Mr. RODDICK: I am not sure of that either, but I would say it was around 90 miles.

Mr. DINSDALE: Would you say that the completion of the Pine Point Railway and the opening up of the Pine Point community would have a noticeable impact on the business life of Fort Smith?

Mr. RODDICK: I do not think so. It is hard to say now. Neither one of them is in operation, and we do not have a road. But with a road, and with power 35 miles north of Fort Smith,—a tender has been let to build a dam. This power will service Fort Smith and Pine Point, and it will definitely benefit Fort Smith.

Mr. KINDT: I understand it is to be \$9,000,000.

Mr. RODDICK: I have not seen what the actual tender was. It was not in the paper before I left.

Mr. DINSDALE: I suppose in any case this whole development will step up the rate of growth in what you might call the southern part of the Great Slave lake.

Mr. RODDICK: Definitely.

Mr. DINSDALE: Mr. Coffey mentioned living at Fort Rae. I imagine you have continuing contacts with the Indian population there.

Mr. RODDICK: At Fort Rae, no.

Mr. DINSDALE: You would not be able to tell the committee just how well informed the Indian population at Fort Rae would be on this question of more autonomy and the division of the territories and so on?

Mr. COFFEY: This is a difficult question to answer. I left that area seven or eight years ago. At that time this was a very isolated community. There were only six white people living in that area. Since then the area has had a mining company development which operated for a short period of time and then closed. They now have a road going through within a couple of miles. They have a daily mail service as well as a sewer and water project under way. The community has changed completely. I cannot tell you what it is like now. The people there have been exposed to school education for ten years, and I would think there have been great changes take place.

Mr. DINSDALE: Do either of these gentlemen have any opinions in respect of provincial status for the Northwest Territories? Do you envisage these two

new districts, for example, as being a possible step in the direction toward provincial status?

Mr. COFFEY: I do not think one can rush into this type of thing quickly. One must look at the development of the country and assess the speed at which it is developing. Much in this way depends upon the discovery and development of national resources. I do feel that we should have great faith in this country because some day it will develop into something far greater than we all now realize.

Mr. WATSON (*Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): Do you feel that decentralization, as suggested earlier, is desirable and will take place when the territory is divided into east and west sections? Do you feel that such a division of the Northwest Territories will represent a step in the direction of decentralization?

Mr. RODDICK: These bills provide for a resident commissioner, and that is in my opinion a step toward decentralization of government.

Mr. WATSON (*Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): You were not referring to the division of the territory when you suggested that these bills were a step in the direction toward decentralization?

Mr. RODDICK: I do not think I said the bills represented a step in the direction of decentralization. I do think I said the sooner government is decentralized the sooner Fort Smith will feel the benefits. I suggest that our main concern is that the administration of our affairs be put into the hands of the people who are resident in the territories and that the federal government both continue and accelerate its program toward decentralization.

Mr. WATSON (*Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): Do you consider this division of the Northwest Territories a step in this direction?

Mr. RODDICK: We do not know the complications which will follow such a division, and have not had sufficient information to come to any conclusion in this regard.

Mr. WATSON (*Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): It is my understanding that one of the reasons we asked you people to come before this committee was that we thought you would give us some suggestions in respect of possible projects to be undertaken by the federal government which would stimulate business in your area. I was hopeful that you would give us some concrete suggestions on behalf of the people you represent in Fort Smith in this regard. What do you think the federal government should do to stimulate business in your area?

Mr. RODDICK: I feel that the decentralization of the government will stimulate business in this area.

Mr. WATSON (*Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): I had reference to concrete projects to be undertaken by the government, for example.

Mr. RHÉAUME: How concrete can one get?

Mr. WATSON (*Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): I had reference to specific projects. Do you have any ideas in this regard? It is all very well to say that decentralization will improve matters in the Northwest Territories, but that is a general sort of statement. I hoped that we would have specific suggestions from you people concerning the type of industry that could be developed, and projects undertaken by the federal government to assist in the development of this area.

Mr. RODDICK: I think we mean by decentralization that the department heads, who are now duplicated in Ottawa, for example the superintendent of forestry, should be eliminated. This is one of the many facets in this area in respect of heads living in Ottawa with offices in Ottawa, supervising industry in the Fort Smith area.

Mr. WATSON (*Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): You have given us some concrete ideas about the difficulties involved in superintendents with offices in Ottawa. Can you give us some actual examples of these difficulties in the field. Is business lost as a result of a delay in making decisions as a result of these superintendents living in Ottawa?

Mr. RODDICK: I can not give you an example in respect of the forestry, but I can give you many examples of finance problems which occur between Fort Smith and Ottawa. A project may well be approved, the men hired in Fort Smith yet two weeks later when they go to pick up their money there is no money available. The treasury man, or the treasury branch in Fort Smith, has received no concrete authorization to pay these men, yet the district administrator knows in Fort Smith that the project and payment have been approved.

Mr. WATSON (*Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): The reason I ask this question is that my personal feeling that any development which takes place in the Northwest Territories will take place as a result of private initiative rather than government initiative. I understand that development to this point has taken place as a result of government initiated projects. Perhaps I am wrong in this feeling. What concrete suggestions do you have to make to this committee in respect of ways in which the federal government can stimulate business in the Fort Smith area?

Mr. RODDICK: Perhaps the federal government and the government of Alberta could get together and build the 70 miles of road between the Mackenzie highway and the Wood Buffalo park to the fifth meridian. There was a great upsurge in business when the first winter road was completed in 1956. The road from High Level to the fifth meridian will cut the mileage from Fort Smith to the outside by 200 miles. This will bring down shipping costs and in turn the whole cost picture in that area.

Mr. WATSON (*Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): Do you feel there is a tourist potential in the area?

Mr. RODDICK: We believe there is a great tourist potential in this area. We now have the largest park in Canada and, I believe, in North America.

Mr. WATSON (*Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): What else do you feel the federal government should do in this regard in an effort to develop this tourist trade?

Mr. RODDICK: I believe that once the road is built the tourist trade will look after itself.

The CHAIRMAN: Perhaps the committee would permit the Chairman to ask a question. I dare not put my name down on this list.

As I recall your main testimony a moment ago, you suggested that as a result of indecision in respect of the capital location there was a definite lack of development and a standstill of enterprises in Fort Smith. It is my understanding that this situation results from one of two reasons, either individuals will not go ahead with projects because they are afraid Fort Smith will not become the capital, or will not go ahead because they are afraid Fort Smith will become the capital.

Mr. RODDICK: I believe most citizens of Fort Smith expect an influx both in population and industry when or if it is named the capital.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Roddick, do you mean that an increase in industry is contingent upon the choice of a capital?

Mr. RODDICK: Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: You feel that some firms will go ahead with certain projects if or when Fort Smith is chosen as capital?

Mr. RODDICK: That is correct.

The CHAIRMAN: Could you give this committee some examples of that situation? Are you referring to the construction of hotels, or the development of other projects?

Mr. RODDICK: I do not know whether I am in a position to answer that question. I know the decision to build a bank has been deferred until and when Fort Smith is chosen as the capital.

Mr. COFFEY: Two additional stores will be built when the capital is chosen.

Mr. KINDT: Could I ask a question, Mr. Chairman?

The CHAIRMAN: Is your question supplementary to this matter?

Mr. KINDT: My question has relation to this matter. It is my understanding that you are suggesting that the administrators should be there on the job. My understanding of that suggestion is that you feel the man should be on the job closer to problems and able to make rapid decisions so that individuals dependent upon those decisions will be able to go ahead; is that right? You have in mind that here in Ottawa we have the Department of Forestry, the Indian Affairs Department, the Department of Northern Affairs and many other departments which are responsible for programs in the north country, and you feel that the heads of these departments looking after these projects in the north should be in a position to make decisions on the job to give the maximum value to the taxpayer's dollar; is that your suggestion?

Mr. RODDICK: Many situations change greatly in Fort Smith before permission to carry out certain decisions is received from Ottawa.

Mr. KINDT: That is exactly what I had in mind. In other words, someone in the Department of Forestry at Fort Smith decides to go ahead with a certain project; he must obtain permission from Ottawa to do so, and a great deal of time is lost as a result. In the event the population in Fort Smith showed a tendency to develop toward the 10,000 figure and a particular industry was called upon to expand in a certain direction, progress could be made in this direction if the administrators were located in the immediate area rather than in Ottawa; is that right? Decisions could be made much more rapidly on the spot than they can be in Ottawa and transmitted to the area; is that correct?

Mr. RODDICK: That is correct. I should like to mention another problem which exists in the Fort Smith area. The land titles office for the whole Northwest Territories is located in Ottawa, and in order to buy a small parcel of land, one must correspond back and forth between Ottawa and Fort Smith, a process which often takes upwards of six months.

Mr. RHÉAUME: Are you in favour of a land titles office being located within the Northwest Territories?

Mr. RODDICK: Yes.

Mr. COFFEY: In one case of which I am familiar an individual has been trying to get title for seven years, and as of this date he is still unsuccessful.

Mr. TURNER: I suggest that is not an isolated problem. This same thing happens in other provinces.

Mr. CYR: You state in your brief that federal assets amount to \$4,650,000. What is the taxable evaluation in Fort Smith, excluding the church, federal buildings, schools and the town hall?

Mr. RODDICK: Are you referring to the taxable assessment?

Mr. CYR: Yes.

Mr. COFFEY: Two years ago the tax assessment was \$2,600,000. It was somewhere between two million and three million.

Mr. CYR: Does that figure include property of missionaries?

Mr. COFFEY: No.

Mr. CYR: What is the municipal evaluation in respect of your homes?

Mr. TURNER: Are you asking what the percentage of that figure is applicable to the municipal evaluation?

Mr. CYR: Yes.

Mr. COFFEY: Are you referring to the assessed value compared to the real value?

Mr. CYR: Yes.

Mr. COFFEY: It is roughly 65 per cent.

Mr. RHÉAUME: Is the Fort Smith chamber of commerce in favour of a fully elective council for the Northwest Territories?

Mr. RODDICK: I cannot answer your question on behalf of the Fort Smith chamber of commerce.

Mr. RHÉAUME: The Fort Smith chamber of commerce has given you no direction in this regard?

Mr. RODDICK: No.

Mr. RHÉAUME: Personally as a business man in this area for ten years, you have said you were in favour; is that correct?

Mr. RODDICK: I feel that the excuse given, that there is not enough qualified men in the north, is not an excuse at all. That is all I can say in this regard.

Mr. RHÉAUME: Mr. Coffey, do you feel that the council of the territory whether it be Mackenzie or the Northwest Territories, should be fully elective?

Mr. COFFEY: I think the territorial council has received a great deal of solid advice from the appointed members, but I do not think there is any reason why this advice could not be acquired from outside sources. If the council was a fully elected council there is no reason why they should not obtain this advice in this way, and I have in mind particularly legal advice.

Mr. RHÉAUME: In other words, you feel at this point that the council should be fully elective?

Mr. COFFEY: Yes.

Mr. RHÉAUME: With its advisers much in the way there are advisers to the House of Commons or to any other legislative assembly in Canada?

Mr. COFFEY: Yes.

Mr. RHÉAUME: Are you opposed to the advisers being the people who vote on the legislation which is now the case?

Mr. COFFEY: Repeat that?

Mr. RHÉAUME: Are you opposed to the present situation in which the appointed members on the council not only advise in respect of administration, but also vote?

Mr. COFFEY: Yes. I do not think that is right.

Mr. RHÉAUME: To your knowledge was the question of the new territory discussed generally prior to the decision being made?

Mr. COFFEY: I could not answer that with a straight yes or no and tell the truth for sure. I do not think it was.

Mr. RHÉAUME: Personally, did you know anything about this prior to the announcement?

Mr. COFFEY: Only what I read in the papers.

Mr. RHÉAUME: To your knowledge was there any consultation in the Mackenzie district in respect of the name? I am using the Mackenzie district in its present geographical sense. Was there any consultation?

Mr. COFFEY: Not that I am aware of.

Mr. RHÉAUME: Do you feel the people of the Nunassiaq territory are not ready to have the territorial franchise extended generally?

Mr. COFFEY: I do not think it is something I could judge, because I am totally unfamiliar with the eastern Arctic. If they have come along in the last ten years with the education over there we have had, I feel probably they are.

Mr. RHÉAUME: You are aware they have the federal franchise?

Mr. COFFEY: Yes.

Mr. RHÉAUME: Do you feel this an anomaly, or an untenable situation that people should be allowed to vote for a federal member of parliament and somehow or other be disqualified from voting for a territorial council? Do you think this is a fair situation?

Mr. COFFEY: It would not seem to be right; no.

Mr. RHÉAUME: Do you think it is just?

Mr. COFFEY: No.

Mr. RHÉAUME: As a businessman, if you were in the Nanassiaq territory, would you be agreeable to allowing civil actions to be commenced against you in any one of the southern provinces and have to pay your own way there at your own expense?

Mr. COFFEY: That is not the way it should be, for sure.

Mr. RHÉAUME: Do you feel that the present officers, such as your superintendent of welfare, education, and so on, could administer the eastern parts of the territory from Fort Smith as well as from Ottawa.

Mr. COFFEY: There is no doubt. I believe it would be much easier to administer that area from Fort Smith.

Mr. RHÉAUME: In view of your own knowledge of the distant early warning line and the projected changing of the role of the distant early warning line from purely a defence role to the gradual turnover to the Department of Transport, which you are aware is occurring, do you feel that this is a good east-west link that will have a cohesive effect on the north?

Mr. TURNER: On a point of order; I would like to suggest that the whole line of questioning has been very leading. What Mr. Rhéaume is doing is putting words in the witness' mouth and receiving the answers yes and no.

Mr. RHÉAUME: They are capable of saying no.

Mr. TURNER: I just wonder how effective this line of questioning is.

Mr. RHÉAUME: I often wonder how effective Mr. Turner's remarks are.

The CHAIRMAN: I realize we should use as much formality as possible. However, you asked him a question in respect of a part of the country concerning which he already had told you he had no knowledge. I believe probably we could save time by framing questions in respect of matters of which he has knowledge.

Mr. RHÉAUME: I will accept your comments in good spirit. However, I would like to say that it is important to ask these men, as northerners, what they believe to be the circumstances from their experience concerning how this can be applied to a part of the north which the bills are dividing off. This is legitimate. We asked all the other witnesses what they felt about it. Therefore, I think it is proper to ask a resident of the north, with his knowledge of communications and transportation, whether he thinks that the distant early warning line as a lateral communication is a cohesive factor in the north. Is it a cohesive factor?

Mr. TURNER: I would like to repeat my point of order. This is typical of the last line of questioning. These are leading questions which give the witness virtually no scope at all. This suggests the answers. With the greatest respect, I would like to suggest you are not leaving much leeway to the witness.

Mr. RHÉAUME: We have heard a great deal about north and south communications. I am attempting to establish for the benefit of the members of the committee, who probably do not know much about the north, that there is in fact an east-west kind of cohesion besides the north-south one we are accustomed to looking at on the maps.

The CHAIRMAN: You may put your question again if you wish.

Mr. RHÉAUME: I do not believe I have any further questions.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions?

Mr. WATSON (*Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): I would like to ask Mr. Coffey if he has any suggestions along the lines of those I asked Mr. Roddick? Has he any suggestions about the area of private enterprise in his immediate area of the Northwest Territories where the federal government could stimulate business?

Mr. COFFEY: As far as Fort Smith is concerned, we have a fairly steady little community with quite a good solid basis, if it remains as it is. If the capital should be moved, there will no doubt be a lot of people leaving with it, and then the economy will be in bad shape. It will probably become a "have not" area.

Mr. WATSON (*Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): Everything that both you gentlemen have said to the committee indicates that the federal government pays the whole shot at Fort Smith. This may or may not be true, but I would like to know, and I think the other members of the committee would like to know, what the federal government could do that it is not doing to stimulate private enterprise so you would not be so dependent on the federal government for everything.

Mr. COFFEY: I do not think there is a great deal that could be done. There is only one industry there at the moment, and it has been trying without any degree of success; this was the sawmill. I believe the management of it has been sort of kicked out of the country, and I believe it will be back in the hands of the government, and that a fairly extensive development could take place with it, which would have some good effect on our community. With the present population, in a few years, probably private enterprise will come in and set up farms or ranches. We have a little problem at the moment with anthrax in the buffalo which sort of discourages the livestock men.

Mr. WATSON (*Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): Is there farming potential in your area?

Mr. COFFEY: Yes. There was a farm there at one time, and the mission had 200 head of cattle some years ago.

Mr. WATSON (*Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): Is there a potential for settlers going in and setting up?

Mr. COFFEY: Yes, I think so, if they could get land.

Mr. WATSON (*Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): I am sorry. You people represent the board of trade up there, and when we decided to invite you I understood we would get suggestions from you people about what had to be done in order to encourage private enterprise. But all we seem to be getting is suggestions on how the government should spend more money up there. That is the impression I get.

The CHAIRMAN: I am sorry. The two bills before the committee are not economic bills. I realize this committee could hear much evidence on what the

economic situation is there, and how we could endeavour to solve unemployment. But I must say that the Chair would regard all that testimony as outside the scope of the subject matter of the bills. This concerns the formation of a new type of government, and that comes within that scope.

Mr. WATSON (*Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): Are you in favour of, or are you opposed to these two bills? I would like to ask that question of each of you.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Roddick?

Mr. RODDICK: I am in favour of one point, namely that of Fort Smith being the capital. That comes from inside myself because I am speaking for myself now. But after the testimony which I listened to this afternoon—and I do not want to put the finger on anybody—I feel that the residents of Fort Smith do not know the whole story and have not been told.

The CHAIRMAN: Are you speaking of the principle of the bills?

Mr. RODDICK: It has not been gone into as far as the complications that follow the bills are concerned, like the testimony we heard today.

Mr. WATSON (*Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): You mentioned that the federal government has \$20,000,000 in Fort Smith alone. I have had this complaint repeated in other communities. Do you not feel that because of this the federal government should have representation on this council as an appointed body, who have voting power, and can represent the federal government's point of view, since it seems to be paying about 95 per cent of the shot.

Mr. RODDICK: You are speaking of the whole of the territories now, not just the area of Fort Smith.

Mr. WATSON (*Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): You mention the amount invested in Fort Smith, and I take it this proportionately would be true of other communities.

Mr. RODDICK: I believe I said \$20,000,000, but some of this is for the territorial government.

Mr. TURNER: With respect to the figure of \$20,000,000 as the value of the federal government assessments, you mention the figure of \$4,650,000 in your brief as being the federal assets total. How do you reconcile those figures?

Mr. RODDICK: This is the federal government assessment. But let me tell you that there is \$20,000,000 in contracts to build the buildings originally at Fort Smith.

Mr. TURNER: I just wanted clarification on that.

Mr. RODDICK: The board of trade questions the figure at which this has been assessed.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions?

Mr. DINSDALE: On this matter of elected or appointed councillors, I would suppose that the two witnesses would prefer to have the appointments—if there were to be appointed members of council—made from within the territory rather than from outside the territory.

Mr. RODDICK: I definitely, personally feel that it would be better to elect them, if we were going to have them from the territories.

Mr. DINSDALE: Do you have this same feeling, Mr. Coffey?

Mr. COFFEY: Yes, I go along with that feeling.

Mr. DINSDALE: Does either of the witnesses have any strong feeling about the name of the territories? Do you agree with the name "Mackenzie" as being a suitable and acceptable name, and would it be suitable to the residents of Fort Smith?

Mr. COFFEY: I think such a name would be suitable if the territory was divided. I think that name would meet with little or no opposition.

Mr. RODDICK: Question.

Mr. DINSDALE: You stated that you had not received a great deal of preliminary information concerning the division of the territory notwithstanding the fact that it was discussed during three or four sessions of the council. Do you have any newspaper coverage in Fort Smith?

Mr. RODDICK: We receive the *Edmonton Journal*.

Mr. DINSDALE: Do you not have a northern newspaper?

Mr. RODDICK: We do have the *News of the North* which is received in some homes.

Mr. DINSDALE: In how many homes would that paper be received?

Mr. RODDICK: I cannot tell you.

Mr. RHÉAUME: Do you believe that decentralization of the authority and responsibility can only occur if the division is made, or do you believe that this can be accomplished in some other way?

Mr. COFFEY: I do not believe a division is necessary in this regard. I think the end result will come through recommendations of this committee, but I feel decentralization could go forward in any event.

Mr. RODDICK: I feel that decentralization could be accomplished without division.

Mr. TURNER: You are now speaking personally?

Mr. RODDICK: Yes.

Mr. KINDT: It is evident from the evidence which you have given here this afternoon that as a result of the lack of telecommunication, radio and television, the people of your area are not enlightened about what takes place on the outside. Without a radio station in the Fort Smith area you would not normally have access to the discussions of the northwest council or information regarding other things that have taken place in that area. It is quite all right for the representatives of the chamber of commerce of Fort Smith to come down to Ottawa and give evidence before this parliamentary committee, and I must say you have done a commendable job, but I do feel the government is negligent in failing to stress the need for these things in the area. We spend a great deal of money sweeping corners, but we might better direct our energies into the development of these other things in the north.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kindt, the subject matters contained in the two bills before us have nothing whatever to do with radio stations or television stations.

Mr. KINDT: I am sure that with the proper government in the north, a great deal of these things will follow.

The CHAIRMAN: I am trying to indicate to you the terms of reference. The adoption of these bills may create a government which will accomplish many things in the north, but these bills before us involve a discussion regarding the creation of a new government.

Mr. KINDT: What I am trying to suggest, Mr. Chairman, is that what we are trying to do here represents a worth while step rather than a step in retrogression.

Mr. DINSDALE: Could I ask a question?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes.

Mr. DINSDALE: Do you feel generally that the failure on the part of the residents of Fort Smith to understand the details of this legislation results from the lack of proper radio facilities, or telephonic communications, or any other deficiency of that kind?

Mr. RODDICK: We presented this brief to the territorial council in 1962. I was not present at that time but I was a member of the executive, and all our work had reference to the choice of a capital. I believe the bills were published in the newspapers in the north, but the choice of capital was the important point.

Mr. TURNER: There is a radio station in Fort Smith, is there, Mr. Roddick?

Mr. RODDICK: There is a very good radio station.

Mr. DINSDALE: Has it improved recently?

Mr. RODDICK: It has improved; since the C.N. have come in it has improved. We have actually had a fairly good radio station since.

Mr. TURNER: As a representative of the executive of the Fort Smith chamber of commerce, can you tell me whether you have access to the minutes of Proceedings and Evidence of the Northwest Territories council in printed form?

Mr. RODDICK: This is available at 75 cents per copy.

Mr. TURNER: Does the Fort Smith chamber of commerce purchase a copy?

Mr. RODDICK: No, it does not.

Mr. TURNER: The chamber of commerce could have purchased copies of the proceedings of the Northwest Territories council had it desired to do so?

Mr. RODDICK: Yes.

Mr. TURNER: Could I ask you why the chamber of commerce did not purchase a copy of this evidence?

Mr. RODDICK: As I mentioned the Fort Smith chamber of commerce was interested in the capital choice mainly.

Mr. TURNER: In other words you could have purchased a copy but did not?

Mr. RODDICK: That is correct.

Mr. TURNER: Did the chamber of commerce write the commissioner of the Northwest Territories in respect of these bills?

Mr. RODDICK: No.

Mr. TURNER: The main issue of interest to the Fort Smith chamber of commerce had relation to the location of the capital; is that right?

Mr. RODDICK: That is the prime concern and has been since 1961.

Mr. TURNER: That would explain the wording of this telegram which the Fort Smith chamber of commerce sent to the chairman of the committee on mines, lands and forests; is that right? I should like to read this telegram into the record. It reads as follows:

"If your committee has any discussion contrary to Northwest Territories council's decision on location of the capital at Fort Smith, the chamber of commerce asks that we be given representation before the committee."

In other words, if anyone intended to appear before this committee in favour of the location of the capital at some place other than Fort Smith you wanted to be represented here; is that right?

Mr. RODDICK: That is right.

Mr. TURNER: Are you aware that representatives from Yellowknife were going to appear before this committee?

Mr. RODDICK: No.

Mr. RHEAUME: Had you guessed that representatives would appear?

Mr. RODDICK: Definitely.

Mr. TURNER: Your main interest was to place your side of the question before this committee in view of the fact that representatives were appearing on behalf of Yellowknife?

Mr. RODDICK: That is right.

Mr. RHEAUME: The Fort Smith chamber of commerce is aware that part of the Northwest Territories consists of islands in James Bay immediately adjacent to Quebec; is that right?

Mr. RODDICK: I have read about it in the *Journal*.

Mr. TURNER: Is the chamber of commerce as a public body aware of this?

Mr. RODDICK: Not as a public body; it has never been discussed.

Mr. RHEAUME: The chamber of commerce in the Northwest Territories is not aware of the fact that there are numerous islands immediately adjacent to Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba which are part of the Northwest Territories?

Mr. KINDT: When it comes to the dissemination of information, my thoughts in making the statement which I did were based on my experience when I travelled in the north for a couple of weeks this past summer. I travelled up to the mouth of the Mackenzie and I was struck by the fact that I knew nothing of what was going on on the outside, and from the broadcasts I listened to I learned very little about what was going on in the Mackenzie. Not having access to television in Inuvik it is as if you were living off in another world. The only item of news I heard in the last week of July which was of interest to me was an announcement on the Inuvik radio one night that the government had raised the salaries of members.

Mr. DINSDALE: On the matter of radio, do you not receive daily news bulletins from the C.B.C.?

Mr. RODDICK: Definitely.

Mr. DINSDALE: You have a microwave link up there?

Mr. RODDICK: Microwave to Hay river and a land line from there down.

Mr. DINSDALE: Does it now proceed down the Mackenzie?

Mr. RODDICK: I believe it goes down to Norman Wells at the present time.

Mr. RHEAUME: As a resident of the Northwest Territories, Mr. Roddick, is it a matter of great concern to you whether the administration of the islands of James Bay should rest at some future point with a government other than the Northwest Territories?

The CHAIRMAN: Let us not get involved in that.

Mr. RHEAUME: Is it of concern to you that the Northwest Territories continue to administer the islands?

Mr. RODDICK: I could not answer without knowing where the islands are.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions?

Mr. TURNER: I would like to thank the witnesses.

The CHAIRMAN: May I ask this question: would you gentlemen or the chamber of commerce be in favour of these bills with the capital in Fort Smith or no bills and no capital in Fort Smith?

Mr. RODDICK: I could not answer that.

Mr. RHEAUME: You are only giving him two of the possibilities.

The CHAIRMAN: We are most grateful to you gentlemen for appearing.

Mr. COFFEY: I would like to thank you, Mr. Chairman, and all the members of the committee for being so good to sit quiet while we tried to give you a story. Neither of us is a legal mind or great public speakers as you can see. It has been a real pleasure to watch the way you operate. Thank you for not being too rough on us.

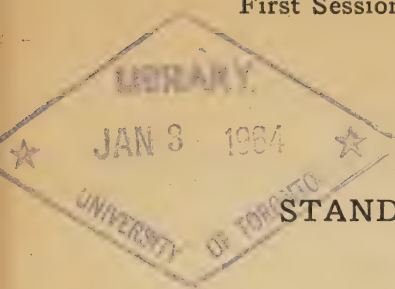
The CHAIRMAN: Thank you again. Have a good journey back.
We will meet on Wednesday morning at 9 a.m.

The committee adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

First Session—Twenty-sixth Parliament

1963



STANDING COMMITTEE

ON

MINES, FORESTS AND WATERS

Chairman: OSIAS GODIN, Esq.

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AND EVIDENCE

No. 3

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1963

Respecting

BILL C-83 (Subject)

An Act to amend the Northwest Territories Act and to rename the said Territories, and to effect certain consequential changes in the Statute Law with respect thereto.

and BILL C-84 (Subject)

An Act respecting the Nunassiaq Territory.

WITNESS:

Mr. Bryan Pearson, Vice-President of Frobisher Bay Chamber of Commerce.

ROGER DUHAMEL, F.R.S.C.
QUEEN'S PRINTER AND CONTROLLER OF STATIONERY
OTTAWA, 1963

STANDING COMMITTEE ON MINES, FORESTS AND WATERS

Chairman: Osias Godin, Esq.

Vice-Chairman: Grant Deachman, Esq.

and Messrs.

Alkenbrack	Gendron	(1) MacInnis
Asselin (<i>Richmond- Wolfe</i>)	Godin	Martin (<i>Timmins</i>)
Berger	Granger	Martineau
Blouin	Gray	Mitchell
Cyr	Grégoire	Moreau
Deachman	Habel	Nielsen
Dinsdale	Harley	Rhéaume
Doucett	Howard	Rideout
Fleming (<i>Okanagan- Revelstoke</i>)	Kindt	Roxburgh
Flemming (<i>Victoria- Carleton</i>)	Laprise	Simpson
	Leboe	Turner
	Leduc	Watson (<i>Châteauguay- Huntingdon-Laprairie</i>)
	Loney	—35.

(Quorum 10)

(1) Mr. Korchinski replaced Mr. MacInnis as of December 6, 1963.

Maxime Guitard,
Clerk of the Committee.

ORDER OF REFERENCE

FRIDAY, December 6, 1963.

Ordered,—That the name of Mr. Korchinski be substituted for that of Mr. MacInnis on the Standing Committee on Mines, Forests and Waters.

Attest

LÉON-J. RAYMOND,
The Clerk of the House.

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY, December 11, 1963.

(9)

The Standing Committee on Mines, Forests and Waters met at 9:35 o'clock a.m. this day. The Chairman, Mr. Osias J. Godin, presided.

Members present: Messrs. Cyr, Doucett, Godin, Habel, Laprise, Leduc, Loney, Mitchell, Moreau, Nielsen, Rhéaume, Roxburgh, Simpson, Turner (14).

The Committee resumed consideration of Bills C-83 and C-84.

Since the out-of-town witness to be heard this morning has not arrived yet, at 9:55 o'clock a.m., on motion of Mr. Simpson, seconded by Mr. Cyr, the Committee adjourned till 3:30 o'clock this afternoon.

AFTERNOON SITTING

(10)

The Standing Committee on Mines, Forests and Waters met at 4:15 o'clock p.m. this day. The Chairman, Mr. Osias J. Godin, presided.

Members present: Messrs. Berger, Cyr, Doucett, Fleming (*Okanagan-Revelstoke*), Gendron, Godin, Grégoire, Kindt, Laprise, Leboe, Leduc, Loney, Nielsen, Rheaume, Roxburgh, Simpson, Turner (17).

In attendance: Mr. Bryan Pearson Vice-President of Frobisher Bay Chamber of Commerce.

The Committee resumed consideration of Bills C-83 and C-84.

Mr. Grégoire moved, seconded by Mr. Rhéaume,

That the Ministers of Natural Resources of Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec and Canada, or their representative, be called by this Committee as witnesses.

And the question being put on the said motion, it was resolved, by a show of hands, in the affirmative.

The Chairman invited Mr. Pearson to make a statement.

A question period ensued.

The examination of the witness being completed, he was thanked by the Chairman and retired.

At 5:35 o'clock p.m. on motion of Mr. Turner, seconded by Mr. Rhéaume, the Committee adjourned till Friday at 9:00 o'clock a.m.

Maxime Guitard,
Clerk of the Committee.

EVIDENCE

WEDNESDAY, December 11, 1963.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, could we come to order? While we are waiting—I understand Mr. Rheame will bring the witness from Frobisher Bay—it is suggested that possibly we could discuss the agenda to be followed until next Wednesday. Apparently we have witnesses for Friday, Monday and Wednesday. I will speak on this subject so that members of the committee will know roughly what the procedure may be as to their presence in this committee.

I would like to hear from members of this committee if it is possible for us to end our sittings and prepare a report, possibly on Wednesday of next week, or whether that would be impossible. We know that there is important business in the house on the estimates and that members would like to be in the house to take part in the discussions. I believe it would be nice if members knew what their commitments would be in this committee. I would like to hear from members.

Mr. SIMPSON: In what order would the witnesses appear?

The CHAIRMAN: All the witnesses from out of town will be coming and we are committed to hearing them. We will have a sitting on Friday afternoon. We could sit Friday evening—although we have not committed ourselves to that—and then we could sit Monday afternoon and Wednesday morning and afternoon.

Mr. SIMPSON: Is there anyone in particular lined up for Friday?

Mr. TURNER: The secretary has a list of witnesses.

The CHAIRMAN: Would you tell the committee what you have on your list?

The CLERK OF THE COMMITTEE: Mr. Robert Williamson from Rankin Inlet answered us that he could appear on Friday the 13th, as well as Mr. Louis Derochers from Edmonton and Father Lemer. The last witness gave me two possible dates, either Friday the 13th or Monday the 16th. Judge Sissons could come on Monday the 16th.

Mr. NIELSEN: Do we have only one witness for today?

The CHAIRMAN: The representative of the chamber of commerce from Frobisher bay.

Mr. TURNER: Did he say he was going to be here today?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes. Maybe he will only be available this afternoon if he left from Frobisher bay last night.

Mr. TURNER: Might I suggest that we hear the representative from Frobisher bay this afternoon, if he arrives; that on Friday morning and if necessary Friday afternoon the committee hear Messrs. Williamson and Derochers, and that we hear Father Lemer and Justice Sissons on Monday afternoon, and if necessary Wednesday morning and Wednesday afternoon. At that time the committee will conclude its hearings for the present session.

Mr. MITCHELL: You mean conclude its hearings?

Mr. TURNER: Suspend its hearings.

Mr. NIELSEN: May I ask why is Dr. Ollivier here today?

The CHAIRMAN: I asked him to be present this morning—which I see now to be of value only this afternoon—for the reason of the order which we expect today.

Mr. NIELSEN: What is that?

The CHAIRMAN: I will cause to be moved this afternoon the motion which is in consequence of the report which we have made on the new order of questions. Dr. Ollivier was present when the order was prepared and we made a unanimous report. Now we expect that if the house will pass the order, we will receive it. Dr. Ollivier agreed that he could come here today. I advised him that this would not be a matter which would be discussed this morning. I was told the motion was on the order paper yesterday, which it was not, but it will be today.

Mr. HABEL: This is not for the record, but could we report progress at this point?

The CHAIRMAN: And adjourn? We will have to adjourn in any event in about an hour from now.

Mr. TURNER: Is somebody checking to see whether Mr. Rheame is going to arrive with the witness?

The CHAIRMAN: Does anyone have an opinion on what the committee should do?

Mr. NIELSEN: Mr. Turner and I were talking just before we had our quorum about the fact that if the Northwest Territory witness is here this morning we should hear him and dispense with the meeting this afternoon. If he does not come here this morning, then we could hear him this afternoon and dispense with the meeting this morning.

The CHAIRMAN: I understand many members are most interested in some of the topics discussed in the House of Commons and we know there will be an adjournment, or we hope.

Mr. NIELSEN: That is gratifying.

The CHAIRMAN: We can wait a bit more. Let us wait until we hear from Mr. Rheame's office.

Mr. TURNER: On the further subject of the hearings later this week and next week, would you sound out the committee on their views on the order of hearings of these witnesses?

Mr. DOUCETT: The order of witnesses seems to be quite satisfactory. As to the time it will take, we will have to judge it as we come to it.

The CHAIRMAN: Today we will have the witness from Frobisher bay, either this morning or this afternoon. On Friday we have two witnesses and possibly three, if Father Lemer arrives, because he has suggested two dates. On Monday we have Father Lemer again, if that is the date when he will arrive, and Judge Sissons. That may be long or it may not. It is very hard to foresee how long the witness will take to testify.

Mr. NIELSEN: The judge is a politician.

The CHAIRMAN: For that reason there might be many questions.

Mr. NIELSEN: He used to be a Liberal member for Athabaska.

Mr. TURNER: I understand Mr. Nielsen has a lot of questions to put to him.

The CHAIRMAN: Can we indicate that we would end our sittings at that time and possibly take some time to see if we could prepare an interim report?

Mr. NIELSEN: This is an excellent target to set, but I do not think we should confine ourselves so far in the future because we may decide that we want a further meeting for some reason or another. It is an excellent target.

The CHAIRMAN: Could we indicate on the record that this is what the committee foresees, excepting any unknown possibilities that may arise?

Mr. TURNER: Perhaps it might be an idea to put on the record, for the convenience of other witnesses that the committee may want to call, that that would be our limit of witnesses before Christmas.

Mr. NIELSEN: You mean we are going to have the opportunity to continue after Christmas?

The CHAIRMAN: I do not know the rules, but if the house is not prorogued, if we return to continue this session after Christmas, I do not suppose our functions will have come to an end.

Mr. NIELSEN: That is what I took from Mr. Turner's remarks.

The CHAIRMAN: We do not know when this session may be prorogued. We are hopeful of certain things but we do not know.

Mr. TURNER: Perhaps, if the committee is agreeable, we could have some indication that the list of witnesses read to us by the secretary be considered to be the list of witnesses which we will attempt to hear before Christmas so that we could release for the moment other witnesses.

Mr. NIELSEN: I would assume we are going to hear Mr. Sivertz and Mr. Brown. Was Mr. Rowley mentioned? These witnesses would be heard before we wind up our proceedings.

Mr. TURNER: I am wondering whether we do not have enough on our plate before Christmas?

The CHAIRMAN: If we felt it would be proper to sit next Friday and next Saturday, I wondered what would happen to our testimony if the house was to prorogue next Friday or Saturday, and what will be the value of hearing the witnesses up until ten o'clock on Friday or Saturday night? if the house prorogued what would happen to the evidence on file?

Mr. DOUCETT: You could not sit if the house was prorogued without permission.

The CHAIRMAN: But if the house is not prorogued until late Saturday night, would there be value in this committee sitting on Friday late into the night and on Saturday until the house was prorogued and doing nothing with the evidence we heard?

Mr. NIELSEN: All of the evidence is going by the board anyway, if the house is prorogued because we cannot put in an effective interim report. It is not going to be any good if the house is prorogued.

The CHAIRMAN: Our report will be in the hands of the government for the new session. I presume it is so.

Mr. TURNER: Dr. Ollivier could tell us whether the proceedings of this committee will remain a record of the house.

Mr. OLLIVIER: Suppose you meet the following session, you can make a motion that the evidence that was taken in the previous session be referred back to the committee for study as part of the evidence of the present session.

Mr. TURNER: In other words the new committee could take advantage of the evidence heard previously?

Mr. RHEAUME: Mr. Pearson arrived ten minutes ago at the airport. His plane was late. He is staying at the Chateau Laurier.

The CHAIRMAN: We will adjourn for this morning. Mr. Rheaume, could you make arrangements to call Mr. Pearson up and tell him that we will hear him at 3:30 this afternoon? Is there any further discussion? I will

entertain a motion to adjourn until 3:30 this afternoon. It is moved by Mr. Simpson, seconded by Mr. Cyr that this committee adjourn until 3:30 this afternoon.

The committee adjourned.

AFTERNOON SITTING

WEDNESDAY, December 11, 1963.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, we have a quorum.

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: Mr. Chairman, now that the terms of reference of our committee have been enlarged may I move, seconded by Mr. Rheaume, that the ministers of natural resources of the provinces of Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec or their representatives be called by this committee as witnesses.

The CHAIRMAN: I will hear any comments on that at this time.

Mr. TURNER: Mr. Chairman, I am prepared not to contest the motion, with the reservations I already have made, that the purpose of inviting these witnesses, their evidence being related to the borders between the provinces and the territories, has no bearing or pertinence to bills C-83 and C-84, which constituted the original reference to this committee, and that such witnesses will be invited under the new reference.

Mr. ROXBURGH: That is, to deal with the territories and the territories alone.

Mr. LEBOE: Mr. Chairman, I believe it should be thoroughly understood that we must dispose of the work that is in front of us before anything else is put on the agenda. Naturally, when this work has been disposed of we could deal then with the proposition. However, I do not think it should be confused with anything we are dealing with at the present time.

The CHAIRMAN: To assist the committee, at a previous meeting the committee accepted a list of witnesses and, as I understand it, it was left to Mr. Rheaume and the Clerk to make the necessary arrangements in regard to how they would invite them and when they would come. As you recall, there was some discussion over the words "summoned" and "called".

We already have some witnesses on the slate who are to be called in respect of these two bills. It was suggested that the witnesses be called.

Mr. Grégoire, I wonder if we could follow the same procedure as we did in the other case; the witnesses were approved as proper witnesses to be called and then, later on, we took steps to call them in a proper order.

Mr. GRÉGOIRE: Mr. Chairman, our terms of reference are now clear and I think they should be called in the same way the other witnesses were called because I am convinced this matter is closely related to bill C-83 and bill C-84.

Mr. TURNER: Mr. Chairman, we do not have to decide that question at the moment.

Subject to the reservations I have made I am prepared not to object to the motion.

Mr. RHEAUME: Question.

The CHAIRMAN: All in favour? Is there anyone opposed?

Motion agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, we have with us this afternoon, Mr. Bryan R. Pearson of Frobisher bay.

Mr. Pearson, would you come and sit at the head table with us.

Mr. BRYAN R. PEARSON (*Vice President, Frobisher Bay Chamber of Commerce*): Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, you will have to forgive my nervous state; I have been flying all night and worked the day before. I am rather shook up.

The receipt of this invitation came as a great surprise to us in Frobisher bay; we are not normally accustomed to receiving invitations and discussing such important matters as these.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the committee for inviting a representative from the Frobisher bay chamber of commerce. I was the chosen one, and I would like to present our side of the picture as we see it to the committee for your consideration.

As we understand the bills they are designed to split the Northwest Territories in two and the whole thing, as far as we are concerned in Frobisher bay, is not to the best interests of the people of the Northwest Territories. We do not feel that splitting the Northwest Territories in two would be an advantage at all. We feel that the Northwest Territories is a complete unit in itself. Its problems are not as diversified as the bills make them out to be.

The people that live in the Northwest Territories are all of a very similar nature particularly in respect of the native people and, of course, the white people. They are, as we call them, the D.P.'s, the desperate pioneers, the last pioneers of this great North American continent. They all have a similar outlook on life. With better communications throughout the territories, which will come in the course of time by way of air, radio and all the other bits and pieces, in our opinion, it conceivably could become a great solid chunk of Canada. Its resources are practically untapped. It is obvious from the development that is going on today the resources are unlimited. Perhaps I am safe in saying the Northwest Territories may in the future become the backbone of Canada as a result of its resources.

Mr. Chairman, I shall now refer to the bill again. This Nunassiaq territory bill is one which irks us in the east. At the moment we do not have a representative on the council at all. The proposed bill gives us two councillors. These two councillors would specifically represent electoral districts; Baffin Island south and Keewatin south. Areas other than those two would not have elected representatives. This will provide the people in Frobisher bay the opportunity of voting, but it will deprive people of the right to vote in respect of federal elections. This is unjustified, undemocratic and unfair. If these people can vote federally, we see no reason why they should not be able to vote territorially. Why should Eskimos, who are the original inhabitants of this particular part of the territories not have the right to vote for a man who will represent them on the council?

My second point is related to appointed members. We do not believe that appointed members are necessary. We do not believe that appointed members can assist the Northwest Territories. I think I am safe in saying that the great majority of appointed members are not resident in the Northwest Territories. What do they know about what is taking place in the Northwest Territories? They come to the north perhaps twice a year to attend council meetings, but that is not sufficient. Representatives must live with the people and understand their problems. There is no point in having a representative of the north who goes to his office in Ottawa, or elsewhere, at nine o'clock in the morning, worries about the Northwest Territories, and then goes home at five o'clock at night. It is our feeling that a representative, in order to do the best for the north, must live in the north and understand the problems of the people there. We desire a completely elected council for the Northwest Territories.

We believe there will be a terrific mining development in the Resolute bay area where they are drilling for oil. There is no reason to believe other than that the largest iron ore deposit on record will be found on Baffin Island at a location known as Queen Mary River. Anyone can take a magnet and pick rocks off the ground in that area which are 86 per cent pure iron ore. My information leads me to believe that there is a very large find in this area, and that it will be very easy to mine and ship. I understand there will be no problem in shipping this ore to Europe, or to any other market where it may be required.

In respect of transportation in the Northwest Territories, I should like to refer to the bill. The bill makes reference to a difficult problem in respect of transportation in the Northwest Territories, which causes difficulty in administering these areas from Ottawa. This statement is very true. However, I must point out that we do not need to be administered from Ottawa. We want to be administered from the Northwest Territories. The distance between Frobisher bay and Yellowknife is 1,274 miles. The distance from Frobisher bay to Montreal is 1,296 miles, and one must also add the distance from Montreal to Ottawa when considering administration.

The minister of northern affairs made a statement very recently that he could make contact with people in the Northwest Territories quite easily by aircraft. I believe he has done so by using DC-3's. I should like to point out that it is possible to travel throughout the Northwest Territories from Montreal to Frobisher bay; Resolute bay to Cambridge bay; Yellowknife to Fort Smith by Pacific Western Air Lines operating out of Edmonton. I think the old school was responsible for this situation when it split the country of Canada into provinces. That school thought in terms of horse and carriage rather than in terms of airplanes which travel today at fantastic speeds, reducing distances to relative unimportance. Today distances are measured in time, hours from A to B, rather than in terms of miles. Aircraft operators in the Northwest Territories today provide small aircraft and encourage flights across the territories.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Pearson, perhaps I could point out to you that we normally hear summations made by witnesses and then ask questions to bring out the information we require. Perhaps at this time you would like us to assist you by asking questions.

Mr. PEARSON: That would be satisfactory, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: I may say that you have done very well in presenting your comments and observations to this committee.

Mr. PEARSON: I am afraid, Mr. Chairman, I was incapable of thinking from the moment I walked into this room; however, I will do my best to answer any questions that members of this committee wish to ask.

Mr. RHÉAUME: Mr. Chairman, I should like to ask one or two questions. How long have you resided on Baffin island, Mr. Pearson?

Mr. PEARSON: I have been a resident of Baffin island since September 17, 1956.

Mr. RHEAUME: Have you been there continuously since that time?

Mr. PEARSON: Perhaps I could answer your question by stating that to my knowledge I have not been out of the Arctic, with the exception of one or two short trips to southern Canada, for periods longer than a few days for something in the neighbourhood of six or seven years.

Mr. RHEAUME: Mr. Pearson, do you feel that the suggestion to split the Northwest Territories from your experience resulted from a feeling or pressure exerted by the population of that part of the Northwest Territories with which you are familiar?

Mr. PEARSON: I do not believe that is a fair statement. In fact, I am quite sure that this decision did not result from feelings or pressures exerted by the people of my area. No one from Baffin island to my knowledge has made this suggestion.

Mr. RHEAUME: Are the present recommendations contained in this bill in respect of the division of the Northwest Territories well known to the population of Baffin island?

Mr. PEARSON: This is not known, and I must emphatically say it is not known. Sometime ago I recall someone making a comment in this regard, but this is the only information I had. At some later stage I recall seeing a poster in the post office which suggested several names for the eastern area. As I recall, the poster suggested a group of names, and requested opinions regarding the name to be chosen. There was Nunassiaq and Nunamarik, and a couple of others. This sign I believe was posted in the post office. I do not believe there was much interest shown in this at all, nor by the people in Frobisher bay in particular. I have spoken to Eskimos about this since the name was chosen and it would appear to me that they were not too happy about the name. I asked several of them what name they would like but they could not give me a name right there and then. They said they would like to think about it. However, they certainly did not seem to like the name Nunassiaq, and from what I can recall they said it came from the Rankin Inlet district.

Mr. RHEAUME: To your knowledge was anyone from the Frobisher bay area or from Baffin island generally consulted at any time in 1960 or 1961 about whether or not they wished the division to occur? Were any Eskimos or white people or anyone else to your knowledge consulted in 1960 or 1961 on whether they agreed with this?

Mr. PEARSON: No, I do not believe so. In fact, definitely not.

Mr. RHEAUME: That ends my line of questioning for the moment.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions on that matter?

Mr. ROXBURGH: I want to say that Mr. Pearson evidently has had a pretty rough time coming out here and he is a kind of tired man. I wanted to tell you that we are not here to try and put a knife into you. We want you to feel at home. After all, we are different types of men, some of us are farmers, a few are lawyers, we put up with them when we have to. I just wanted to say that.

Mr. PEARSON: Thank you, it gives me much more confidence. What I would like to say is that it is the mating season in the Northern Territories right now.

Mr. ROXBURGH: Very good.

Mr. KINDT: Mr. Chairman, there is a thought running through some of the evidence which has been given by Mr. Pearson that the north has really two types of settlers. On the one hand civil servants who in particular, as I have gathered from what he has said, are not in a position to really speak their minds; and then there are those who are attached to the chamber of commerce which he represents. The point was made by you that these civil servants who are on the national council are not doing any good. Can you elaborate on this point of the effectiveness, in terms of building the north, of having civil servants in places of authority and of policy makers such as the ones on the council, as opposed to the others who are in private enterprise?

Mr. PEARSON: I think I understand you. One of the problems I have been faced with in the north is that if you mention politics to the civil servants,

they climb up the nearest tree. It is taboo, do not say such things. The same sort of thing seems to apply to this territorial factor. I spoke to many civil servants about this and they would not offer an opinion.

Frobisher bay is a peculiar place. Ninety per cent of it consists of civil servants. There are actually three private entrepreneurs in Frobisher bay, three private individuals who have set up their own businesses there. There is the bank of Montreal, the Royal bank, Esso, Shell oil, and various other representatives of organizations, but there are only three private entrepreneurs there. There is a general state of apathy in Frobisher bay. It is a peculiar situation. A lot of it is I think justified.

We also have a very peculiar liquor problem in Frobisher bay. It is quite unique. I think it is the only one of its type in the world, and we are not particularly proud of it. When you go to a liquor store which has an abundant supply of every kind of booze imaginable, you sign a little slip of paper and make your order, you hand over your dough, and three weeks later you go back and pick up the booze. The reason for this, it was said, was that the Eskimo people were getting too fond of the stuff when it was first brought in. The place was wide open and they could go in and buy as much as they wanted.

There were many problems in Frobisher bay over liquor. Many of the upstanding Eskimos in the community lost their jobs, their homes, their families broke up. It was a real mess. Therefore, this thing was brought about. I am not too sure how or why it happened, but it just happened. No one was consulted, to my knowledge. No white person was consulted about this. It is over two years ago that this situation has been in effect. Since this thing came into being the liquor problem in Frobisher bay has somewhat improved. Eskimos are still able to go to the hotel and buy all they want and drink it on the premises. They cannot take it out, but it is still available to them and they do not have to wait three weeks for a pint of beer. However, this is the case in a liquor store.

I believe that the ratio of convictions over these past couple of years, while this program has been in operation, greatly decreased, but the question is whether this is the case because the liquor is rationed, or is it because the Eskimos are becoming more sophisticated. Is it because they are learning to drink? The white people in Frobisher bay say that if the Eskimo can earn \$600, \$700, or \$800 a month driving a water truck, paying his income tax and enjoying all the benefits of our so-called civilization, why can he not take the rest of it, such as liquor? If he drinks too much and gets thrown into jail, it is too bad. There is such a thing as the interdiction list on which he can be put, or he can volunteer to go on it if he has a liquor problem. No one in Frobisher bay was consulted about this.

I think this, and quite a few other things that affect the people of Frobisher bay, has caused this state of apathy. People just say "I am here for two years. The government pays me \$7,000 plus \$2,000 allowance and shifts all my furniture. In two years I can make a few bucks and I can go back down south and retire, and to hell with the place".

We want to see this eliminated. I think the only way we are going to get at it is to have a fully elected council, with a representative on it from each community. This may not be possible, but there should be at least several communities represented by a person on the Northwest Territories council, so that we can decide these issues.

Mr. KINDT: Would a resident commissioner in conjunction with that council help?

Mr. PEARSON: A resident commissioner would be just as important as a fully elected council; most definitely.

Mr. KINDT: Your thought is that decisions could be made on the spot without a long delay?

Mr. PEARSON: Yes.

Mr. KINDT: Which would be the case when decisions are made by people who are 2,000 miles away.

Mr. PEARSON: Exactly. If a problem arises in Frobisher Bay and the council is not sitting at that time, the problem is sent down by communication to Ottawa; it is hashed over there and held in abeyance until there is another council meeting. I believe the commissioner has the power to make certain decisions in respect of these things without a council meeting.

Mr. DOUCETT: Are the liquor regulations set up by the council.

Mr. PEARSON: Yes; by the existing council or the past council.

Mr. FLEMING (*Okanagan-Revelstoke*): There is no elected representative from the eastern Arctic on that council?

Mr. PEARSON: No; I do not believe there is even an appointed representative; if there is, we have never seen him.

Mr. RHEAUME: This is a hypothetical question. Why do you think the territorial councillors who made the decision to have a three week waiting period in Frobisher Bay did not apply the same legislation in their own constituencies over on the western side?

Mr. PEARSON: If they attempted to pull that in Yellowknife, I am sure they would not be elected the following year.

Mr. TURNER: I would like to ask a few questions. Mr. Pearson and I have met before. Mr. Pearson, how did you first hear about these present committee hearings?

Mr. PEARSON: The hearings of the present committee?

Mr. TURNER: Yes.

Mr. PEARSON: I read in Hansard that a house committee was being set up to investigate the situation. The bill sort of did not go over too big on second reading. The house committee was set up to investigate the matter. I heard from Mr. Rheaume that a committee was being set up and that a representative may be called or the committee may go north.

Mr. TURNER: How many representatives are there on the Frobisher bay chamber of commerce?

Mr. PEARSON: Fifteen persons are eligible; that includes the bank managers. At that particular time, of those in town, I think there were ten.

Mr. TURNER: Of the 15 you have mentioned, there are only three private entrepreneurs in Frobisher bay?

Mr. PEARSON: Yes; entrepreneurs in the sense they are persons who went there and started their own business.

Mr. TURNER: You would be one of those three persons?

Mr. PEARSON: Yes.

Mr. TURNER: What type of business do you have?

Mr. PEARSON: At the moment I am just the Shell agent in Frobisher bay.

Mr. TURNER: It would include Alec Gallagher?

Mr. PEARSON: Yes.

Mr. TURNER: What does he do?

Mr. PEARSON: He runs the hotel at Frobisher bay.

Mr. TURNER: Would it include Ray St. Julien?

Mr. PEARSON: Yes.

Mr. TURNER: Those are the three present entrepreneurs?

Mr. PEARSON: Yes. There are two others; there is Mossessee, the barber, and Jacob Partridge who is the Sunshine Girl representative—it is not Avon, it is another company. He sells cosmetics and he is making a fortune.

Mr. TURNER: Is Mossessee a member of the chamber of commerce?

Mr. PEARSON: Yes, he is.

Mr. TURNER: Is Mr. Partridge?

Mr. PEARSON: Yes. Mossessee attended several meetings.

Mr. TURNER: Is he a member of the chamber of commerce?

Mr. PEARSON: Yes.

Mr. TURNER: Is Mr. Partridge a member?

Mr. PEARSON: Mr. Partridge started in business after we had our last meeting; that is, prior to the one I called before coming here.

Mr. TURNER: You mentioned three entrepreneurs who have been in business for the last few years. Mr. St. Julien, Mr. Alec Gallagher, and you, if I understand it correctly, are the three private businessmen in Frobisher Bay?

Mr. PEARSON: Yes.

Mr. TURNER: And the only three private businessmen who are members of the Frobisher bay chamber of commerce?

Mr. PEARSON: Yes.

Mr. TURNER: Was there a meeting of the chamber of commerce which authorized you to come down to testify before this committee?

Mr. PEARSON: There was.

Mr. TURNER: When was that meeting held?

Mr. PEARSON: On Monday night at 9 o'clock.

Mr. TURNER: Was Mr. Gallagher present at that meeting?

Mr. PEARSON: No.

Mr. TURNER: Was Mr. St. Julien present at the meeting?

Mr. PEARSON: No.

Mr. RHEAUME: Is Mr. Gallagher in Europe at the present time?

Mr. PEARSON: He is.

Mr. TURNER: Who is the president of the Frobisher bay chamber of commerce?

Mr. PEARSON: Captain Alec Gallagher.

Mr. TURNER: Who is the vice president?

Mr. PEARSON: I am the vice president now.

Mr. TURNER: Since when?

Mr. PEARSON: Since Monday evening.

Mr. TURNER: At a meeting at which Mr. Gallagher, the president, was not present?

Mr. PEARSON: That is right; he is in Europe.

Mr. TURNER: Who is the secretary of the chamber?

Mr. PEARSON: The manager of the Royal Bank.

Mr. TURNER: Would you think that the Northwest Territories could be administered territorially as well from Frobisher bay as from Fort Smith? Suppose we were to choose a capital in one place or another, would you say the Northwest Territories could be successfully administered from Frobisher bay?

Mr. PEARSON: I do not think so, no. If you are going to have a centre of government, it may as well be in the centre so that you can go this way or that way; if we go this way, we will be in Greenland, and that sort of thing. I imagine right in the middle would be the logical place.

Mr. TURNER: Would you be satisfied with a member on the Northwest Territories council—assuming you do not want it divided—or would you prefer the eastern Arctic to have its own council with only elected members from the eastern Arctic? Suppose you were to have a council from the eastern Arctic with only elected members.

Mr. PEARSON: No.

Mr. TURNER: You would not like that?

Mr. PEARSON: No. If I may say so in answer to your question, you are assuming that the federal government will pass the bill to split the territories. I believe this should be left to the people who live in the territories. Give us our own council, a fully elected council to start with, and we will decide whether or not to split the territories. It should be left to the people who live there. As I said earlier, I think there is no point in splitting the territories. You are making foreigners, you are splitting it up and making boundaries; you are putting people into reserves.

Mr. TURNER: Regardless of who makes the decision to split the territories, would you not as a resident of Frobisher bay prefer to have your own elected representatives governing only that territory?

Mr. PEARSON: No.

Mr. TURNER: You would prefer to be governed from Fort Smith and Yellowknife?

Mr. PEARSON: To get back to the centre, let us say Yellowknife. Yes, definitely I would prefer that.

Mr. TURNER: You would not think the eastern Arctic would have a more responsive government to the wishes of the people if you had your own eastern Arctic council—and you have mentioned the question of liquor, for instance?

Mr. PEARSON: As a whole unit, I think you have something, but if you cut off the east we do not have developed resources at the moment; Yellowknife has gold mines and Hay River has the largest river fishing industry in the world. Ours will come, but until then let us all pool our resources and stick together right at the start and then gradually take it from there.

Mr. TURNER: How often has the territorial council sat in Frobisher bay, to your knowledge?

Mr. PEARSON: They sat in Frobisher bay in 1957. I was the cook for the council members. I think it was 1957, and that was the only time.

Mr. DOUCETT: They were not anxious to come back!

Mr. PEARSON: I do not think they had ever been so well fed in their lives.

Mr. TURNER: How long have you known about this proposed legislation?

Mr. PEARSON: Legislation to split the territories?

Mr. TURNER: Yes.

Mr. PEARSON: A year.

Mr. TURNER: Approximately a year?

Mr. PEARSON: Yes, a year approximately.

Mr. TURNER: Do you recall a meeting of the Frobisher chamber of commerce with the minister of northern affairs, Mr. Arthur Laing, and myself in Frobisher at the end of June of this year?

Mr. PEARSON: Yes.

Mr. TURNER: Do you recall whether you or the chamber of commerce brought this matter to the attention of the minister or myself? Was it discussed, or was the discussion rather a business discussion?

Mr. PEARSON: I think this was a discussion on business in the Arctic. I do not think this particular item was mentioned.

Mr. TURNER: Nobody in the chamber of commerce brought it up, to your knowledge?

Mr. PEARSON: At the time while I was present no one brought it up to my recollection.

Mr. TURNER: That was five months ago?

Mr. PEARSON: Was it?

Mr. TURNER: Yes.

You mentioned a notice that you read posted on the notice board at the post office having to do with a suggested name for the new proposed territory.

M. PEARSON: Yes.

Mr. TURNER: This notice called upon people to express their wishes. I want to refer you to the fact that on two occasions—the first in the spring of 1962 and the second in the fall of 1962—surveys were made in the eastern Arctic about this subject, and letters were distributed in both English and in Eskimo syllabics throughout the eastern Arctic, including Frobisher bay. The responses from Frobisher bay to the first survey or to the second survey were in the autumn of 1962, 109 split fairly evenly between four names or suggested names, one of which was Nunassiaq, and in May and June of 1962, 137 people from Frobisher bay expressed their opinion on the same subject.

Mr. PEARSON: You said the eastern Arctic?

M. TURNER: The eastern Arctic, including Arctic bay, Cape Dorset, Frobisher bay, Hall Beach, Lake Harbour, Pangnistung, Pond Inlet, Port Burwell, Igloo lake, Chesterfield Inlet, Coral Harbour, Eskimo Point, Rankin Inlet, Whale Cove and Resolute bay, and the total ballots cast in May and June of 1962 were 1,100 and in autumn of 1962, 809.

Mr. LEBOE: May I interpose a question at this point? How many of those would you suspect were civil servants?

Mr. TURNER: I will be prepared to introduce evidence to that effect. I do not have the figures at the moment, Mr. Leboe.

Mr. PEARSON: Mr. Chairman, you said—and I raised the point earlier—four names were submitted. Were any of those polls taken by the people who were asked to send in a name?

Mr. TURNER: There were other names sent in but the four names were submitted names. There was a number of "write in" ballots, as it is called in the United States. Mr. Pearson, did the Frobisher chamber of commerce ever present its views to the Northwest Territories council on these two bills?

Mr. PEARSON: No, it was never asked.

Mr. TURNER: You have lived in Baffin island, according to your earlier testimony, since September 17, 1956, with a few absences.

M. PEARSON: Yes.

Mr. TURNER: Does that mean you have lived most of that time in Frobisher bay or have you lived elsewhere in the eastern Arctic?

Mr. PEARSON: Frobisher bay, Broughton island, Kivitoo, Hall Beach and Cape Dyer.

Mr. TURNER: Have you taken out Canadian citizenship papers?

Mr. PEARSON: No.

Mr. TURNER: You are not a Canadian citizen?

Mr. PEARSON: No, I am not.

Mr. LEBOE: From what country do you come?

Mr. PEARSON: From Britain.

Mr. LEBOE: In other words you are a British subject.

Mr. PEARSON: Yes.

Mr. LEBOE: I just wanted to get that clear.

Mr. TURNER: Were you the chief organizer for Mr. Rhéaume in the 1963 election?

Mr. PEARSON: I was.

Mr. TURNER: And in the 1962 election were you the chief organizer for Mr. Rhéaume?

Mr. PEARSON: In Frobisher bay, yes.

Mr. RHEAUME: I am fascinated, Mr. Chairman, to know how Mr. Pearson's political affiliations bear on the evidence he has given. We should state that Mr. Searle who gave evidence at the last meeting is on the executive of the Liberal party of the Northwest Territories, and he gave similar evidence to that given by Mr. Pearson. I do not want the witnesses discredited because of any political affiliation they may have or any support they might give to any political party.

The CHAIRMAN: I am sure the committee when listening to the evidence realize that a person probably belongs to one party or another. We all wish that everyone in Canada would belong to one party or another. I am sure the members do not pay any attention to that type of fact.

Mr. ROXBURGH: You made the statement about the Eskimos. I know this has been brought up before but I would like your opinion on it. Is it your opinion that they should have a say in affairs of the territory and that they should have a vote? What percentage of Eskimos are, shall we say, educated Eskimos?

Mr. PEARSON: I think it should be made quite clear that there are no illiterate Eskimos. All the Eskimos read and write their own language.

Mr. ROXBURGH: In other words, as far as your opinion is concerned, they would be able to vote with equal intelligence as compared to any other person up in that area?

Mr. PEARSON: I think so. Eskimos take an interest in the community. For example, if there is to be a parent teacher association meeting for instance in Frobisher bay, you may bet your boots that every Eskimo parent will be there and will pack the school solid, while you may find only half a dozen whites present. I believe that the voting figures for the Northwest Territories were very high. The percentage that turned out to the polls was one of the highest figures in Canada. They are very interested. They feel they are getting pushed around—for want of a better term—and being told what to do, and how to do it. Some of them are getting a bit fed up.

An Eskimo, a fine upstanding man in Frobisher bay who speaks English, and who is a civil servant, technical officer grade one or two, and who is president of the Eskimo council, told me that they held a meeting on Monday evening, and that they had been discussing many things.

At Frobisher bay at the moment there is an enormous search going on for two Eskimo rehabilitants from the rehabilitation centre there, who went out hunting two weeks ago and who have not shown up since. They went by mechanized machine, a skidoo, or something like that, and it must have broken

down and they must have decided to walk back—this is what we presume—without their having any idea of the distance involved. They had gone out in this machine at great speed, and when only two hours away they may have decided to walk back. But the distance is over 60 miles.

Mr. TURNER: What was the temperature there when you left?

Mr. PEARSON: It was 39 degrees below zero; and during that two week period the weather was intense. At my house we had gale winds of 100 knots. I believe there is very little chance of those two men being alive.

And we had a very serious fire in Frobisher bay, and the place was all upset.

An Eskimo called me and said: "When is the Canadian government going to send up white people to the Northwest Territories who understand the Northwest Territories?" He said, "We have no dogs with which to go hunting, because the mounties shot them. The reason they shot them was that we did not tie them up, and the reason we did not tie them up was that we could not feed them, and the reason we could not feed them was that we were working." It is a vicious circle. So they are unable to go out hunting to gather skins to make clothing from.

Secondly they go to the Hudson's Bay Company and buy adequate clothing. They cannot buy genuine caribou clothing, but they can buy manufactured clothing which is excellent, considering the weather in this area.

Mr. TURNER: You are now referring to a conversation you had with Simon?

Mr. PEARSON: Yes. I am quoting his statement almost verbatim. He asked when the Canadian government was going to send people to Frobisher bay, or to the north, who understood the situation there. He did not refer to the problems, but he did want to know when civil servants would be posted to the north who could understand the difficulties. I have made this point before, but at the risk of repeating myself I should like to state that by the time a civil servant posted to the north has served his probationary period, he is a very often removed, which causes a great deal of difficulty and upsets the community in the north. I think I have been quoted in this regard in the *Edmonton Journal*.

Mr. ROXBURGH: My understanding of what you have suggested is that the Eskimo people in the north are capable of looking after the affairs of the Northwest Territories; is that correct?

Mr. PEARSON: I think the general consensus in respect of the council indicates that the council should be made up on an equal basis of Eskimo, Indian and white people. I should state that we have always needed advisers from the federal government, and I suggest that we cannot do this alone. We do still need people to advise the council, but we feel they should not have the right to vote. This situation may exist as it is today for perhaps ten, 15 or 20 years.

Mr. TURNER: Mr. Chairman, I should like to ask a question or two but wish to reserve the right to introduce evidence at a later date.

I understand in respect of Frobisher bay that there has been some difficulty in respect of enforcing liquor laws. I understand there are two sides to every story, but as a result of conversations with members of the R.C.M.P. that as a result of a request made by the Apex Hill community association the three week delay period is imposed upon the people applying for the right to purchase liquor, is that right? I understand this request was made to the Northwest Territories council, and although some objection was expressed at that meeting, the council acceded to the request on the part of the Eskimos at Apex Hill. I stated the situation accurately?

Mr. PEARSON: In answer to your question, I should like to state that the liquor store in Frobisher bay was not established as a result of requests or petitions on behalf of the residents of Frobisher bay. The individuals responsible for the establishment of this liquor store did not get in touch with the people in this community. As a result of this lack of communication, the people in this area did not have a plebiscite. The suggestion made in respect of the three week delay period was perhaps protested by white people on different occasions, but in fact this situation does now exist in Frobisher bay. Mr. Turner, I do not believe that the Eskimo people, as a whole, can think in terms of rationing periods. I do not believe that they are sufficiently sophisticated in respect of thought, if you know what I mean.

Mr. LEBOE: On this point, Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask whether or not the community was asking and pressing for the liquor outlet to which reference has been made. Mr. Pearson, did they ask for it to be established there?

Mr. PEARSON: No.

Mr. LEBOE: Do they want it there?

Mr. PEARSON: No.

Mr. LEBOE: Were there any representations made?

Mr. PEARSON: No, I do not believe so. We had a terrific system before they brought that in. We could send a letter to the distillers and get a case of booze for \$52.

Mr. TURNER: Liquor, c.o.d.

Mr. PEARSON: Yes, straight from the factory. When the liquor store opened the price doubled. Everything was going fine until they opened the liquor store.

Mr. SIMPSON: Mr. Chairman, there is one point on which I would like clarification.

Reference was made to a meeting last June between a ministerial party which was in Frobisher bay and the chamber of commerce. Do you recall what time of the day it was and if the discussion took $1\frac{1}{2}$ or 2 hours?

Mr. PEARSON: It was in building 75, Sunday morning. Am I right?

Mr. TURNER: Yes.

Mr. PEARSON: And the duration was approximately an hour.

Mr. TURNER: One hour to $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours.

Mr. PEARSON: Yes. We were given a lot of encouragement by Mr. Laing to get a chamber of commerce going; in other words to get it cracking. He said: "give us a brief; send it down to us; let us hear your views on business."

Now, I wanted to build a house in Frobisher bay and I went to Toronto; I said to the manufacturer that I wanted to buy this house. I asked how much it was and he said so and so, and I said I will call the finance company. But, they could not get me a mortgage because they cannot purchase land there. This was one of the immediate problems and one of the things that stuck out like a sore thumb. Those are the things we discussed with the minister at that time.

Mr. TURNER: A full range of problems?

Mr. PEARSON: Yes.

Mr. SIMPSON: The question was asked whether or not the chamber of commerce made their views known to the minister at that time in respect of the division of the territories, and I believe your answer was in the negative.

Mr. PEARSON: Yes.

Mr. SIMPSON: Was this question not broached even by the ministerial party?

Mr. PEARSON: No.

Mr. SIMPSON: Did any of those people who may have known not feel this was surprising?

Mr. PEARSON: No; the minister at that time,—I could be wrong, now; I have a weird memory—I am pretty sure, did not mention the splitting up of the territories; otherwise I would have had something to say on it. I am sure it would have stuck in my memory.

Mr. TURNER: But, Mr. Pearson, in view of the fact that you are one member of the chamber of commerce who knew about splitting the territories for a year and the minister having had a meeting with the chamber of commerce five months ago, if the chamber of commerce had been opposed to the splitting of the territories at that time why was the subject not brought up?

Mr. SIMPSON: Mr. Chairman, this is the clarification I wanted, but I do not recall where the question stands.

Was there any discussion on this, or did the chamber of commerce bring it up? I want to know if it was brought up in any way whatsoever.

Mr. LEBOE: I have a supplementary question to that. I wonder if it is possible that the change in government—we are in politics so let us be realistic—might have had an effect on the interest in the proposed legislation, because this legislation was really introduced by the previous government and has now been followed by a different government.

Mr. RHÉAUME: The legislation was never introduced. Reference was made to it in the throne speech only.

Mr. TURNER: Mr. Chairman, may I speak on that point of order? It was mentioned in the 1962 throne speech by the former government, and I referred to a letter dated January 2 where the former minister approved the general terms of the legislation, and that letter became public as a document of the Northwest Territories council. It is clear the general terms of this legislation had been approved by the former government.

Mr. LEBOE: My own reaction to this is that, having been in politics, I would rather have dismissed the thing until something new cropped up after there was a change in government because these things do not happen, as you know. There are complete changes in some of these things when we have a change in government, at least the dressing of it is for me just the same.

Mr. PEARSON: There is one particular point which I should like to make again; that is that Frobisher bay has never been openly asked and openly considered territorially. This is something new to us. As I said when I started stuttering half an hour ago, this came as a surprise, that we should be asked. At least we are now being given some consideration.

Mr. TURNER: Do you recall Mr. Laing's and my own request for a brief?

Mr. PEARSON: Yes. There are many reasons why that brief has not been sent yet; probably one of them would be a lack of interest at that particular time.

There is one thing that upset a lot of people in Frobisher bay, that is the business of the mace of the Northwest Territories. Some of the people feel very proud of this mace because it was manufactured in Cape Dorset, and this was to be given to the Mackenzie territory. Was that the general idea, that they would make a mace for the Nunassiat council?

The CHAIRMAN: Who are "they"?

Mr. PEARSON: The Mackenzie council.

Mr. TURNER: What you mean apparently is that under the legislation the mace will go to the Mackenzie territory, and you want your mace back?

Mr. PEARSON: We want the crown jewel put into the museum because this was the mace of the Northwest Territories council as it existed then.

Mr. TURNER: In Cape Dorset? That is a reasonable request.

Mr. PEARSON: We could make a mace for each of them, and then switch them. People got upset over this. This is the point I am trying to make. I am not doing so well.

The type of people who live in the north are a cut above the ordinary man down south. They have something to offer, they are unique—perhaps they are all nuts but they are all different. That is why they go north. They are desperate pioneers. They go there to battle out a living out of the harsh, frozen wastes. These people should be given some consideration, and I do not see any reason why they should not be given the right to vote and to have a fully elected council in the Northwest Territories as well as a resident commissioner.

Mr. DOUCETT: When you speak of the Northwest Territories do you mean just what we call the northwest constituency now, or do you mean the Yukon and the northwest?

Mr. PEARSON: No; the Northwest Territories.

Mr. DOUCETT: Without this new division?

Mr. PEARSON: Yes. One of the reasons given for splitting the territories is the problem of administration and getting around; that is, that transportation is the problem. I do not believe this is valid. The problems are similar; we have Eskimos in Tuktoyaktuk, in Kivittu and Igloodik. We do not have any Indians.

Mr. DOUCETT: I do not know whether or not this is a fair question, but do you think it is the consensus of opinion of the citizens and natives in the territory that it should be left as one?

Mr. PEARSON: Most definitely; I really do.

Mr. DOUCETT: Do you think it would be just as advantageous to administer in one as in two?

Mr. PEARSON: Yes, if the seat of government, the council and resident commissioner lived at a strategic geographical location which perhaps might be Inuvik, for all I know, or Fort Smith—Fort Smith is a bit too far south; but perhaps Yellowknife. Transportation as it is today is measured in terms of hours and minutes and not in terms of miles. We do not have horses and buggies any more. In the Northwest Territories the resources are untouched. They are drilling for oil now in Resolute bay; there is iron in Baffin island, and Lord knows what you will find, and gold in Yellowknife.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions?

Mr. LAPRISE: (*Interpretation*) Would the witness object to the islands around Quebec belonging to the state of Quebec; that is, the islands which are near shore? What do you think about that in Frobisher bay? Do you feel the inshore islands should belong to Quebec?

Mr. LEBOE: On a point of order; I think this is introducing something which is completely foreign to what we have before us.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes. I was endeavouring to listen carefully to the question; it was split in half.

Mr. LAPRISE: (*Interpretation*) I would like to know whether you think the islands around the province of Quebec at the present time near the shores at low tide should belong to Quebec? On the assumption that the territory of Nunassiat will come into existence, do you feel these islands should belong to Nunassiat or to Quebec?

Mr. TURNER: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Has the Frobisher chamber of commerce ever considered the question?

Mr. PEARSON: I do not believe so, personally.

Mr. TURNER: You are speaking personally?

Mr. PEARSON: Yes.

Mr. KINDT: Then you would not be in a position, Mr. Pearson, to give a definite answer on that particular problem.

Mr. PEARSON: I can give you my own personal viewpoint.

The CHAIRMAN: There is a point of order, Mr. Kindt, raised by Mr. Leboe and spoken to by Mr. Turner.

(*Interpretation*): It was decided yesterday that it was only when we would discuss the new order of reference that we would be called upon to discuss the problem which is brought up at the present time. This witness was called here to give evidence on the matter of two bills and not on the matter of the other problem which will be examined when we have completed the discussion on the two new bills.

Mr. LAPRISE (*Interpretation*): Could this gentleman return later? This is probably the only time when we will have the opportunity to question him.

Mr. TURNER: As a matter of convenience to the committee, with the reservation that Mr. Pearson has just made that the Frobisher chamber of commerce has never considered the matter and that he is only speaking in his personal capacity, for whatever it is worth, I would withdraw my objection.

Mr. LEBOE: I do not want to see a precedent set here of getting drawn into something we do not want to discuss.

The CHAIRMAN: Have you finished your remarks?

(*Interpretation*): The witness indicated that the chamber of commerce has not discussed this matter.

Are there any further questions?

Mr. TURNER: I am wondering who is your barber up there, Mr. Pearson!

Mr. KINDT: Perhaps I can get some legal advice. Has a British subject, under the Canadian Elections Act, who has the proper requirements plus domicile, all the rights and privileges to vote and take part in elections and that sort of thing?

Mr. TURNER: Yes.

Mr. RHEAUME: But he can vote just once!

Mr. TURNER: On the assumption that Mr. Pearson has lived in Frobisher bay for one year, he has the right to vote.

Mr. PEARSON: I have lived in Canada for seven years. Since I have been in Canada I have been fortunate in many ways. I have learned a tremendous amount of things. I have tried to give something in return to the country, and I feel that if I can in any way assist the people of the Northwest Territories, which is my home, I will do everything I possibly can.

Mr. KINDT: May I say, Mr. Chairman, that if we had more men like Bryan Pearson in the north country it would be an advantage to the north as well as to the rest of Canada.

The CHAIRMAN: I am sure the committee all agree with this, Mr. Pearson. I am not sure that everyone has indicated that they have no further questions. If they have not, I would like on behalf of the committee to thank Mr. Pearson for coming here and giving us his views and the views of the chamber of commerce. I feel the committee is fortunate in having a witness from that area of the north to question. We give you our thanks, Mr. Pearson, and we wish you the very best.

Mr. PEARSON: Thank you.

Mr. DOUCETT: There is one other question. There are different organizations up there as well as the chamber of commerce; I think we were told there were seven or eight, nine or ten, or something like that. Do you think those organizations will be interested enough, now the proposed change has come to their knowledge, to express their views in favour or against the bills?

Mr. PEARSON: In Frobisher bay, as I have said, you have three individuals who are in a position to comment. All the other people are involved with government contracts or are civil servants, and from what I can understand from these individuals in Frobisher bay their feeling is "Oh no, that is politics, and I keep right out of it."

Mr. DOUCETT: They have views but do not feel they can express them due to their position and occupation?

Mr. PEARSON: Yes, it is very unfortunate because there are fine people there and I am sure they would like to give their views. Perhaps I may ask this so I can go back and tell them the answer: Do territorial politics, if that is what it is called, jeopardize these people at all if they make known their opinions? There are some capable people there.

Mr. DOUCETT: It certainly should not.

Mr. PEARSON: They will not stick their necks out, so to speak, for fear they will get their heads chopped off.

Mr. TURNER: You said there were only three white people able to speak their minds. The other men and women all represent either the civil service or national concerns, or financial concerns; their homes are not necessarily to be in Frobisher bay or in the north.

Mr. PEARSON: That is right.

Mr. TURNER: So there are only three men who really have made a stake in the north.

Mr. PEARSON: I have not made a stake. I have made a mistake to a point. I am stuck in Frobisher bay. I have invested so much money there that I cannot possibly get out. No one in his right mind would go to Frobisher bay and buy a business. The odds are against him from the start.

The way to get people in the north to stay there, be they civil servants or not—the only way we can get them to stay there is to give them a voice in matters concerning the north, and that is something they have not got. I am sure you will see very different circumstances in places like Fort Smith and Yellowknife where the civil servants do become increasingly a part of the community. But in Frobisher bay this is not the case, and one of the reasons for it is that they do not have representation.

Mr. TURNER: Is it not that Frobisher bay is not a self supporting community in terms of natural resources, industry and so on?

Mr. PEARSON: That may be so. But there are many things: there is a movement afoot to establish tourist business in Frobisher bay. This is the largest industry in the world, and we have tons of it, millions of acres of it. The tourists just bring money in. They do not take anything out except silly pictures or a couple of old chars, and we have plenty of them.

Mr. TURNER: You say there are only three men now who have made their stake in the north, in Frobisher bay?

Mr. PEARSON: That is right.

Mr. TURNER: And two of them were not present at that meeting.

Mr. PEARSON: That is right, because one was in Europe, and the other one could not find someone to relieve him at his pool hall, when it was a busy night, a pay night.

Mr. DOUCETT: If a plebiscite were taken, all the chamber would be able to vote?

Mr. PEARSON: That is right. I think if a plebiscite were taken through the Northwest Territories, the ballot would simply split or not split it. Would this not be a deciding factor?

Mr. DOUCETT: I was going to ask you about that, if a plebiscite were taken; but I thought it was hypothetical, and I did not think I should do so. You have your own views.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions?

Mr. TURNER: Since there are no further questions may we thank Mr. Pearson. I move that we adjourn.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

First Session—Twenty-sixth Parliament

1963

STANDING COMMITTEE

ON

MINES, FORESTS AND WATERS

Chairman: OSIAS GODIN, Esq.

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AND EVIDENCE

No. 4



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1963

Respecting

BILL C-83 (Subject)

An Act to amend the Northwest Territories Act and to rename the said Territories, and to effect certain consequential changes in the Statute Law with respect thereto.

and BILL C-84 (Subject)

An Act respecting the Nunassiat Territory.

WITNESS:

Mr. Louis Desrochers, former elected Member of the Territorial Council
of the Northwest Territories.

ROGER DUHAMEL, F.R.S.C.
QUEEN'S PRINTER AND CONTROLLER OF STATIONERY
OTTAWA, 1964

STANDING COMMITTEE ON MINES, FORESTS AND WATERS

Chairman: Osias Godin, Esq.

Vice-Chairman: Grant Deachman, Esq.

and Messrs.

Alkenbrack	Godin	Martin (<i>Timmins</i>)
Asselin (<i>Richmond-</i> <i>Wolfe</i>)	Granger	Martineau
Berger	Gray	Mitchell
Blouin	Grégoire	Moreau
Cyr	Habel	Nielsen
Deachman	Harley	Rhéaume
Dinsdale	Howard	Rideout
Doucett	Kindt	Roxburgh
Fleming (<i>Okanagan-</i> <i>Revelstoke</i>)	Korchinski	Simpson
Flemming (<i>Victoria-</i> <i>Carleton</i>)	Laprise	Turner
Gendron	Leboe	Watson (<i>Châteauguay-</i> <i>Huntingdon-Laprairie</i>)
	Leduc	—35.
	Loney	

(Quorum 10)

Maxime Guitard,
Clerk of the Committee.

REPORT TO THE HOUSE

MONDAY, December 9, 1963

The Standing Committee on Mines, Forests and Waters has the honour to present its

SECOND REPORT

Your Committee recommends that it be given new Terms of Reference empowering it to consider the question of the off-shore islands and the borders between the Provinces and the Northwest Territories.

Respectfully submitted,

OSIAS GODIN,
Chairman.

(This Report also appears in Issue No. 2)

ORDER OF REFERENCE

WEDNESDAY, December 11, 1963

Ordered,—That the Standing Committee on Mines, Forests and Waters be empowered to consider the question of the off-shore islands and the borders between the Provinces and the Northwest Territories.

Attest.

LEON-J. RAYMOND,
The Clerk of the House.

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

FRIDAY, December 13, 1963

(11)

The Standing Committee on Mines, Forests and Waters met at 9.53 a.m. this day. The Chairman, Mr. Osias J. Godin, presided.

Members present: Messrs. Cyr, Dinsdale, Godin, Harley, Korchinski, Leduc, Loney, Rhéaume, Roxburgh, Simpson, Turner (11).

In attendance: Mr. Louis Desrochers, former elected member of the Territorial Council of the Northwest Territories.

The Committee resumed consideration of Bills C-83 and C-84.

The Chairman invited Mr. Desrochers to make a general statement on which he was severally questioned.

The examination of the witness being completed, he retired.

At 11.15 o'clock a.m. the Committee adjourned until Monday afternoon, December 16.

Maxime Guitard,
Clerk of the Committee.

EVIDENCE

FRIDAY, December 13, 1963

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, we have a quorum.

I should like to welcome the ten members present, the witness and others. I hope we can make an effort to proceed as quickly as possible.

This morning we have with us Mr. L. A. Desrochers, a solicitor from Edmonton, who was an appointed member of the Northwest Territories council. I would ask Mr. Desrochers to come to the front and take a seat at the head table.

Mr. Desrochers, our normal practice is to have witnesses make an opening statement and then the members ask questions to clear up any points that seem unclear or have not been covered.

Perhaps you would now commence with your opening statement.

Mr. L. A. DESROCHERS (*Former appointed member, Northwest Territories Council*): Thank you Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the committee.

I have prepared a few notes which I propose to read in the interests of brevity.

When I come before you to testify regarding my opinion relating to the desirability of dividing the Northwest Territories, as we now know them, I speak as a dissentient member of the last council of the Northwest Territories, which ceased to exist a few weeks ago. Indeed, that council repeatedly affirmed its belief in the desirability of the division and, in January, of 1962, as you know, passed a resolution requesting the federal government to place before parliament the necessary bills to enact this change.

It is my understanding that the originator of the proposal is Mr. Knut Lang, an elected member of the council for the constituency of Mackenzie Delta.

The proposal had been accepted in principle before I became a member of the council in January of 1961, at which time it was discussed briefly and the administration was requested to prepare a memorandum referring the problems of the division for study at the summer session at Fort Simpson in 1961.

This study took place and it was decided that a paper, setting out the views of council, be circulated in the territory and the views of the residents solicited. There were very few—two as I recall—letters sent in, one by Mr. Norman M. Byrne, of Yellowknife and the other by Mr. H. M. Jones, one of the appointed members of the council, and then the director of the Indian affairs branch. One letter seemed to suggest deferment of the proposal while Mr. Jones' letter did not deal with the principle of division but dealt only with the effect the proposed boundaries may have for some Indian bands.

At this meeting we listened to C.B.C. recordings of eight interviews, four from Yellowknife and four from Fort Simpson. My interpretation of these recordings was that the Yellowknife interviewees, with one exception, were not in favour of the split at this time, while the Fort Simpson interviewees favoured a split by a majority.

The resolution was adopted by the council but not unanimously.

During the summer session of 1962, the summer session of 1963 and the winter session of 1963 the elected member for Mackenzie North in which Yellowknife is located, began to express some doubt on the merits of the

proposal, but I believe I express his feelings when I say that by that time the division in principle was well entrenched, and the machinery to set it up in practice was well under way. The rescinding motion was doomed to defeat largely as a result of the votes that would be cast by the three other elected members.

The rest of the history, gentlemen, is known to you.

My first objection to the proposal was based on the premise accepted by the council that the western part could and would develop more rapidly than the eastern part and would thus achieve full representation and later full responsible government long before the eastern part, if the eastern part achieved either at any time. The boundary question thus became very important because one part could look forward to getting control of the revenue from the natural resources within its boundaries at a later date, while the other part because of its slower development and other factors might never reach this stage. We were thus arbitrarily and, in my opinion, at an inopportune time, giving to the slower part, as it was called, vast areas of the shield which might and should justifiably and equitably be later part of the western territory. I said: "inopportune" because we are just on the eve of what is expected to be an era of great prospecting and developing activity and which is expected to come with the completion of the Pine Point railway.

My hope was that if division was necessary it be retarded a few years so that the viable western part be given more natural resources eventually in order to help it finance the tremendous cost it would eventually assume. I may be too boundary-conscious and too natural-resources-conscious, but I think one member of this committee who is absent today might see some merit in this opinion.

My second objection was and is that in my opinion one proposal only seems to have been accepted in order to achieve decentralized administration and more representative government.

I was the junior member of the last council and by far its less knowledgeable member but I venture to affirm that I find no impelling reason to split the territory at this time in order to achieve the desired end. As a matter of fact, the council has already taken a step which in my view is somewhat inconsistent with the basic premise outlined earlier.

At first it was decided that the council of the eastern part would not at first, have any elected members. Since the last federal election, however, it has been decided that perhaps the eastern territory could have two elected members and, I believe it has become more generally accepted that the eastern part may not be so materially different from the western part.

One of the bases for the recommendation to split the territory into two parts has thus lost or suffered a severe set back. The eastern part, or at least a portion of it, is deemed sufficiently evolved or developed to justify representation on a council.

It seems to me, therefore, that the desired end of decentralization and more representative government might be achieved within the present boundaries and with less drastic adjustments. I have in mind a possible increase of members to the council; for example, from nine to 11, so that the eastern part or a portion of it, would have immediately elected representation. I contemplate also an acceleration of the pace at which appointed members are to be replaced by elected members. In this proposal that I outlined there would already be a majority of elected members, and I contemplate the retention of appointed members only for two reasons. First, because of the repeated insistence of the elected members that appointed members remain on council for a time and, second, the fact that at present it may be difficult or artificial to create more constituencies. As population centres develop and as polar

urbanization continues, the appointed members could be replaced by elected members from the constituencies gradually created.

In regard to the problem of decentralization of administration, I suggest that a commissioner of the Northwest Territories could reside in the territories and serve both parts as they are presently known. I recognize that there is overlapping of territorial and federal jurisdiction, particularly in the eastern part where the majority of the population is Eskimo. I cannot appreciate, however, that this fact necessarily means that the commissioner and his staff cannot reside in the territory or that there need be a division so that one commissioner be in Ottawa for the eastern part and one in the west for the western part.

The chief of the northern affairs branch and key members of his staff as well as the two, and maybe more, elected members from the east could ensure that policies and legislation be in keeping with the needs of the eastern population. In my view these needs are not that fundamentally different from those of the western part and, where they are, even they fall within the existing constitutional responsibility of federal authority.

I realize that the present Northwest Territories are formidable in size and that there are problems of communication and travel which hinder administration. I fail to appreciate, however, that these difficulties necessarily justify a division.

I have heard and read allegations that the proposed division is the brain child of a Parkinsonian Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources. I have yet to find any evidence to substantiate this allegation. As I said earlier, Mr. Lang has been and is the most staunch supporter of this division.

Mr. TURNER: You are referring to Knut Lang?

Mr. DESROCHERS: I referred to Mr. Knut Lang, yes.

Mr. TURNER: There may be confusion between him and the minister.

Mr. DESROCHERS: Yes. I am sorry, I referred to Mr. Knut Lang.

He has enjoyed the support of his elected and appointed colleagues on the council. The territorial division of the northern affairs branch has merely applied its staff to the task of helping to translate a policy into practice. I am certain that the administration is also convinced that the split is desirable but not for the motives that are often imputed to it. I wish to add in passing that I have been constantly impressed by the devotion and skill displayed by the administration in the handling of territorial matters and the great personal contribution made thereto by the former commissioner, Mr. R. G. Robertson whose task was formidable during the last ten years.

There have been, and there exist shortcomings in the Northwest Territories, but I submit that the solution to them will not come from a division at this time.

Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, there is another problem that I would like to raise with you which is not directly concerned with the division. Perhaps I should leave it until a later time this morning.

The CHAIRMAN: I do not think there will be any harm done if you at least indicate the subject matter of your further point.

Mr. DESROCHERS: Now that I am no longer a member of the council I feel that I am free to speak on this subject, Mr. Chairman, and this is in respect of the policy of not paying appointed members who sit on the council of the Northwest Territories. As you know, the elected members are given an honorarium which is set out in the act; appointed members are not. The principle has been somewhat attacked in the proposed legislation relating to the Nunas-iaq territory where an exception is made, I think, for the members who would be appointed from that territory. My reason for saying this is that the time

required for the work of the council of the Northwest Territories is increasing every year. When I was first appointed I do recall Mr. Dinsdale's letter to me setting out what the normal work was, and he was absolutely correct. However, over the years the added responsibilities taken on by the council have caused meetings to be longer and there is quite a bit of work between meetings. You gentlemen will know what that entails. While there is some merit in leaving the policy as it is, I think the fact nevertheless remains that while this policy exists fewer people are eligible for selection by the governor general in council. There are a number of people who have had firsthand experience in respect of northern affairs, who have been resident in the Northwest Territories, and who might be excellent members of the council but because of the conditions and because of their working commitments, they cannot, I do not think, be considered as candidates.

That is my submission, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Desrochers.

Are there any questions?

Mr. TURNER: Mr. Desrochers, I am interested in your argument that in your view the entire territory could be administered from one point within the territory by a resident commissioner. I was wondering whether you calculated the cost of that type of administration in terms of the necessity of employing chartered aircraft and that sort of thing to bind the territory together?

Mr. DESROCHERS: Mr. Chairman, I have not made a cost analysis of this situation. However, I do not think that it is absolutely necessary that the commissioner fly around constantly. It would undoubtedly in my submission be natural that the seat of government be in the western part, largely because of the fact that the population is centered there. I think that it would not be too expensive and need not be done by chartered aircraft all the time for the commissioner to visit the eastern part, or the Arctic archipelago if necessary, much like he does now from Ottawa, or as members of the staff do from Ottawa.

I realize there is no direct communication from Fort Simpson, for example, or Yellowknife, or other centres in the western part to the eastern Arctic division, but I do not think that necessarily means that the only solution we have to the improvement of conditions in the Northwest Territories government is division. I think that some thought should be given to exploring that further. I know some thought has been given, but I think given with the thought in mind that the principle of division has already been accepted.

Mr. TURNER: Were there any minutes of the council meetings in which you participated which you record how the vote went on each of these proposals?

Mr. DESROCHERS: I never requested a recorded vote on this issue. The votes and proceedings in respect of the matter of the resolution, and Mr. Bartlett is here and can bear me out in this regard, indicate that the resolution was passed in January, 1962 and that all members except myself agreed to the resolution. Is that what you were referring to?

Mr. TURNER: Yes. In that statement you include the four elected members?

Mr. DESROCHERS: Yes.

Mr. TURNER: I am interested in your views on the matter of whether the western portion of the territories, the Mackenzie area, would be able to support the eastern portion which at the moment is not as well developed and populated, and really aside from the indigenous population, is populated by civil servants in the great majority. Do you think that the linking of these two areas would in fact hold back the western area from developing into a more representative type of government because it would be economically more viable?

Mr. DESROCHERS: No, it would not, Mr. Chairman, with certain financial agreements that could be worked out between the Northwest Territories, as it would then be, and the federal government. It seems to me that the financial program is a very important one, but it also seems to me that the so-called burden of the eastern portion need not find its solution only in division. That is, when the five year financial agreements are worked out, that could be a matter taken into account in determining what is fair compensation by the country as a whole for the very particular conditions that prevail throughout the Northwest Territories, including the more indigenous eastern part.

Mr. TURNER: You have had an opportunity, as I understand it, of travelling a good deal in the Northwest Territories since your appointment three years ago?

Mr. DESROCHERS: Yes.

Mr. TURNER: What is your feeling in terms of time in respect of the economic self-sufficiency of the Northwest Territories?

Mr. DESROCHERS: Mr. Turner, I cannot project any estimate in this regard. You are thinking of the economic viability from the point of view of reaching the stature of a province?

Mr. TURNER: Yes, I was thinking of the stature of a province and being able to support itself without an influx of funds from the federal government or southern Canada.

Mr. DESROCHERS: I cannot answer that question. It may be because I am a resident of a city that is very interested in the Northwest Territories, but I think there is a great deal of interest, and we all expect the next ten years to bring about fantastic developments. Beyond that I do not know what that development will entail or what population will be brought in. I really cannot answer that question.

Mr. TURNER: I suppose this depends primarily on the discovery of natural resources?

Mr. DESROCHERS: That is essentially correct.

Mr. TURNER: As well as upon payroll economy?

Mr. DESROCHERS: Yes, other than government payroll.

Mr. TURNER: Mr. Chairman, I find Mr. Desrochers' testimony very balancing and I have no further questions to put to him.

Mr. RHEAUME: Mr. Chairman, I should like to ask Mr. Desrochers one or two questions. Mr. Desrochers, at the time this division was being discussed by council do you recall whether council had available studies in respect of the administration of justice, as it would be affected by the division, and studies of mineral resources and how they were to be parcelled out, or were comprehensive studies of this type available to the council in respect of a wide range of problems in the Northwest Territories and the effects which might result from a division?

Mr. DESROCHERS: No comprehensive studies were available. On the question of natural resources, this matter was not immediately relevant because of the fact that our council has only indirect authority and a very indirect and very inferior concern with that subject.

Mr. TURNER: You say that in the sense that jurisdiction over natural resources, unlike the provinces, is still federal?

Mr. DESROCHERS: Yes.

In respect of the field of administration of justice, in those areas, the past years have been formative for the administration of justice in the territories. I did not personally see any comprehensive study, but I always assumed that a territorial court would be set up in the new territory. I see that the

bills provide for that also, or at least the Nunassiat territory is to have a territorial court. No comprehensive study was made, although there may have been one made prior to my being appointed to the council. I really must say, Mr. Rheame, that there was no express request for a comprehensive study, in fairness to what took place.

Mr. RHEAUME: In relation to justice, from your reading of the Nunassiat bill which is the provision to set up the court, you feel that a court should be located within Nunassiat. My impression of the bill, of course, and the provisions is that it will not, but that judges from other provinces will be used in respect of cases that may arise in Nunassiat. There is no provision for a resident territorial court or court officials for Nunassiat. Perhaps I could be corrected in this regard if I am wrong.

Mr. DESROCHERS: Paragraph 24, subparagraph (2) says that the governor in council may appoint a person to be a judge of the territorial court, and then there are to be ex officio judges who are judges from other jurisdictions.

Mr. TURNER: There is an exact duplication proposed for the Nunassiat territory of the territorial court in the Mackenzie area, but there is the right, as the witness has pointed out, to have ex officio judges exercise jurisdiction.

Mr. RHEAUME: Perhaps we will have to wait until we have the administrative witnesses before us to find out what they in fact have proposed.

Mr. Desrochers, you were discussing the possibilities of administering all territorial matters for the entire Northwest Territories from one location?

Mr. DESROCHERS: Yes.

Mr. RHEAUME: Are you aware that there are now three services linking the Edmonton—Fort Smith—Yukon—Cambridge bay—Resolute bay—Hall Beach to Frobisher bay area by the use of three carriers? This is a very new development. Would you agree that this would tend to bear out your point that it would be possible to visit these areas without the use of chartered aircraft?

Mr. DESROCHERS: I would agree with you, Mr. Rheame. I am surprised I did not know that fact, coming from Edmonton. As a matter of fact, I am ashamed to admit this.

Mr. RHEAUME: In your opinion would it be necessary to a healthy administration of territorial affairs within the whole 1,300,000 square miles of the Northwest Territories to have two commissioners, two courts with all the officials required and two superintendents of child welfare?

Mr. DESROCHERS: No, Mr. Rheame, I do not believe so.

Mr. RHEAUME: In other words, at this stage, without putting words into your mouth, you do not feel that it is necessary to have two territorial governments to administer the affairs of the population in this area?

Mr. DESROCHERS: That is correct, at this stage.

Mr. TURNER: Perhaps I could just interject on a point of order. The validity of the question will depend on how much duplication there is. In other words, are we merely dividing the present civil service or administration into two, or are we adding to it?

Mr. DESROCHERS: Yes.

Mr. TURNER: On the assumption that there is duplication your answer is as you have given it?

Mr. DESROCHERS: Yes.

Mr. TURNER: If there is no duplication your answer is obviously worth proportionately less?

Mr. RHEAUME: It was the last part of the question to which I really wanted an answer. Do you feel it is essential to have two separate territorial governments to administer the affairs of the north?

Mr. DESROCHERS: No, Mr. Rheaume.

Mr. DINSDALE: Mr. Chairman, did I understand Mr. Desrochers to say that in any formal divisions on this matter there were no dissenters among the elected representatives of the council?

Mr. DESROCHERS: Mr. Chairman, in 1961, and at the January session of 1962, as I recall it, all the elected members stood together. Mr. Brown was with me at that council meeting and I think he will recall as I do, that it was only in Cape Dorset in the summer of 1962 that an elected member for Mackenzie North began to display or give some indication that he had second thoughts. These arose from the fact that the residents of his constituency were starting to react, I assume. There had been very little if any reaction, as I mentioned in my opening remarks, to the invitation made by the council at an earlier stage for the views of the residents. But, now that the ball was in motion and the residents could see that everyone meant business, some reaction was starting in the Yellowknife area. He was the spokesman for the Yellowknife area and felt that he had to convey this feeling. I think he has, since that time, by several remarks he has made, displayed this doubt.

The CHAIRMAN: In order to assist the committee, you are referring to Mr. Gall?

Mr. DESROCHERS: I was referring to Mr. Gall, yes.

Mr. DINSDALE: Among the appointed representatives to the council other than yourself there was unanimous support for the division?

Mr. RHEAUME: Yes, Mr. Dinsdale.

Mr. DINSDALE: No reservation was expressed, is that right?

Mr. DESROCHERS: None that I have ever heard.

Mr. DINSDALE: I take it from your remarks that you feel that appointed members still have a useful role to play in northern matters?

Mr. DESROCHERS: We have been told repeatedly by our colleagues, the elected members, that we do have a role to play. I will now speak for the four other appointed members. I can say that in many debates and in many fields the contributions they have made have been very very helpful to the deliberations of council. I do not believe that the council need absolutely have appointed members. However, I find it extremely difficult to find a way of getting a nine or ten man body together without having appointed members largely because of the fact we would have to create, as I said earlier, artificial constituencies in the territories. I do feel, however, that for a time the appointed members should remain. Within a population of 23,000 as has been said many times, you may have very many capable people who could bring to the council diversified experience, but because they are so few and because they live in a country that is difficult to live in, in many respects, they cannot devote to council affairs as much time as possibly other people living in other areas. The accessibility is more difficult because of conditions. I do not subscribe to the theory that there are not able men in the territories who could serve the council, not at all. When the population increases the eligibility and the accessibility of council to the population will increase.

Mr. DINSDALE: You have pointed out the present difficulty in respect of appointed members arising from lengthening sessions. This, of course, is a trend in all democratic bodies including the House of Commons. Would you anticipate under these circumstances that it would become increasingly difficult for appointees outside the territory to give the required time and attention to the responsibilities?

Mr. DESROCHERS: I do not think so, because unless they are very affluent or in a way of life which gives them a great deal of time, apart from family, professions or work, I do not think they could devote the time that is required to the proper attention to territorial matters of a council member.

Mr. DINSDALE: Up until three years ago, if my knowledge in respect of these matters is accurate, an appointed member tended to be the deputy head of a department involved in the north. I think it was at the time you were appointed that this break away was made and members not having any formal connection with the federal government were appointed. This was the trend in a certain direction, with more autonomy from Ottawa. Would you feel that this would be the time to make a complete break from a dependence on representatives from other parts of Canada?

Mr. DESROCHERS: Do you mean that this would be the time to appoint non-civil servants?

Mr. DINSDALE: No, but perhaps this is the time to have no appointed members at all, depending entirely on people living within the territory.

Mr. DESROCHERS: Personally, Mr. Dinsdale, I have often said to my colleagues on the council that ideally speaking I felt that the council should be a completely elected body. It is, as I said earlier, through their insistence, and in this they say they represent some public opinion, that for a little time appointed members should remain. That swayed me to the idea that possibly for a matter of five, six, seven or eight years appointed members still have their place on the council, but this is a result of this insistence.

I perhaps should point out another fact. Recently an elected member came on to complete the term of another, the member for Mackenzie South. I do recall that when he first arrived on the council he expressed to me his opposition to the idea of having appointed members. He was in this way, I think reflecting the opinion of his constituency. Since he has been on the council I think I am fair in saying that he has changed his idea considerably and sees the usefulness of appointed members at this time. I always say "at this time". I do not know that it would be wise or desirable to erase the appointed members.

Mr. TURNER: You were referring by name to which councillor?

Mr. DESROCHERS: I was referring to Mr. Kaser.

Mr. KORCHINSKI: You mentioned that it was becoming more and more difficult to get people to serve on council as appointed members because of the fact that perhaps they did not receive any payment, am I correct?

Mr. DESROCHERS: I did not say it was difficult, but that it had its limiting areas.

Mr. KORCHINSKI: You suggest the area becomes smaller from which you can choose.

Mr. DESROCHERS: Yes.

Mr. KORCHINSKI: If you divide the territory you would normally expect the amount of work to be naturally less for each area, therefore would you not agree that the area might be enlarged in respect of your choice of appointed members?

Mr. DESROCHERS: I would agree with you, sir, so far as the eastern territories are concerned, because as the legislation is presently before you there are five appointed members out of the seven members. I do not mean to be disrespectful here, gentlemen, but I think it can be fairly said that when the elected members achieve a majority there will follow longer meetings.

Mr. DINSDALE: We understand.

Mr. DESROCHERS: So that if the division takes place as contemplated the meetings of the Mackenzie territory I expect to be rather very long. I think there is precedent elsewhere to support and justify this view.

Mr. KORCHINSKI: I do not know whether you answered my question entirely. I do not suggest that they should be all elected members. Even if you retain the number of appointed members you now have and you split the territory there should be naturally less work per territory; is that right?

Mr. DESROCHERS: Yes.

Mr. KORCHINSKI: This would result from the fact that you have not got such a large area. Do you still feel such a split would not provide a wider field from which you can appoint members?

Mr. DESROCHERS: I think I tried to answer your question. I said so far as the Nunassiat territory was concerned there will be fewer problems. They will not be concerned at that time with municipal affairs; they will not be concerned with some of these matters and, therefore in the Nunassiat territory I can foresee there will be less time required. In respect of the Mackenzie territory I do not think that the time required for the particular attendance of a member would be much shorter. As a matter of fact, I think it will be longer.

Mr. KORCHINSKI: You indicated that the progress would be greater for the western area than in the eastern area. Without having the territory divided, decisions are made generally on the basis of generalizations. You apply the same principles to all areas. If the eastern area is to have a slower rate of progress, then perhaps in many cases decisions can be made in such a way that their immediate problems are not taken into account; whereas if you separated that area from the west, special attention could be given to their problems. Do you not agree this might be the wise course to follow?

Mr. DESROCHERS: No, I do not.

Mr. KORCHINSKI: I am speaking in terms of economics. If you are to build up a depressed area, so to speak, or an area with a slow rate of growth, and you apply special measures to that area which might not be necessarily applied or required in the western part, this may tend to increase the development; is that right?

Mr. DESROCHERS: Mr. Chairman, I do not think I can answer Mr. Korchinski's question. I think if there were immediate representation from the east on the council of the Northwest Territories as it is presently constituted we would go a long way to meeting the problem that you pose. In respect of interjecting policy, or setting policy that will promote development in the eastern part, that is largely within the realm of natural resources development and industry, and these fields are not within the immediate jurisdiction of the council as we presently have it, or within the jurisdiction of the territorial administration as we now have it. So, it seems to me the answer to that comes from sources within your control, or the federal control.

Mr. RHEAUME: Mr. Desrochers, from your experience in the north and your continuing contact which have been going on over the last three years, are you aware of the recent increase in ferment in the central and eastern Arctic among the people to have representation on the Northwest Territories council?

Mr. DESROCHERS: Not personally, no. I have seen reports in the press relating to the committee studying the situation which indicate that the east wants a more direct voice. When we were in Cape Dorset, some residents in that area and in the area of Frobisher displayed to me and to several others a desire to have more to say about territorial matters. Beyond that point I cannot say from personal observation that I have seen any great ferment, as you put it, within the last few months.

Mr. RHEAUME: You are certainly aware that prior to 1962 the people who lived in the proposed eastern part, as well as in fact some of the people who lived in parts of what would be the Mackenzie district, did not have the federal vote?

Mr. DESROCHERS: Yes.

Mr. RHEAUME: In your opinion would this situation help to contribute to the apathy that has been experienced by the council when it solicited or suggested that people make representations?

Mr. DESROCHERS: That may have had some effect, Mr. Rheaume, but I do not know. The apathy at that time was general and it existed even in those areas that had maximum representation under the existing system. As I say, we got one letter from the Northwest Territories and the other letter came from the department head of the Indian affairs branch.

Mr. RHEAUME: Just to follow this line of questioning, do you not feel there would be an anomaly in that the Eskimos, Indians and whites have the federal franchise but do not have the right to vote in a territorial matter?

Mr. DESROCHERS: I do not know if I would call it an anomaly, Mr. Chairman, but there is certainly an inconsistency, because if you are able to cast your ballot in respect of a central government matter you certainly should be able to cast your ballot in respect of a junior government matter which this is. This brings us into the realm of practicality. How can we achieve a consistency at this time which would be practical. That is the problem in my mind. I agree with you entirely on principle, but when you come to reduce this to practice at this time I find some difficulties. For example, once the principle was agreed to in respect of representation on the Nunassiatq territorial council there was little or no difficulty in finding two seemingly reasonable constituencies in the eyes of the council. That left many places without direct representation but spread the constituencies out over such an area that it would be difficult to truly represent them. You know what I speak of because you have such a vast area to cover.

Mr. RHEAUME: Mr. Chairman, fortunately the witness is not aware of the previous testimony, but the desire of the spokesmen we have heard from so far from the east to have the territorial franchise extended all over is, after all, peculiar in the face of their experience with the federal franchise. How can we justify to Canadians generally the ability of the senior government to conduct elections throughout the entire territory, with all its attendant problems of practicality, and deny the same people the right to a territorial vote? I am interested in knowing what discussions have taken place and how deeply this situation was explored by the territorial council.

Mr. DESROCHERS: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Rheaume, I think at first it was assumed that the degree of development and other practical problems of communication render it extremely difficult for the council to contemplate elected representation from the eastern territory. Once the federal election took place the immediate effect was to give that argument quite a severe set back. I repeat, in principle I agree with you entirely, and I say that this can be handled much as before in the western territory with a gradual development of constituencies which are reasonable—not homogeneous, necessarily. There has been taking place in the west a gradual development of these constituencies and I suggest the same thing could occur in the east at this time by two, or maybe three and I am not putting any magic on the figure two, and gradually as the population increased we could dispose with the appointed members.

Mr. RHEAUME: I should like to ask another question but will have to refer to the map. You were a member of the council which discussed additional constituencies on the western side I believe this year called the Arctic con-

stituency which includes Inuvik, Tuktoyaktuk, Cape Bathurst, Coppermine, Prairie River and Cambridge bay, to mention a few?

Mr. DESROCHERS: Yes.

Mr. RHEAUME: Could you conceive of a constituency in the eastern Arctic that would be any more impractical than this one which your council said should be a constituency represented by one man?

Mr. DESROCHERS: Yes.

Mr. RHEAUME: Could you conceive of a constituency in the eastern Arctic for practical purposes, knowing about the transportation and communication difficulties, which would be any more unrealistic?

Mr. DESROCHERS: I think partly in answer to your question, Mr. Rheaume, I should say that the means of communication in that western area have been and are as you said earlier much superior I think to those which prevail in the east, and I think that did have a bearing on the decision. As you said earlier, one can reach these points by existing air lines, and that was the answer of the council to that objection.

Mr. SIMPSON: Mr. Desrochers, at the meeting of the territorial council, when this matter was discussed, can you tell me whether the proposed border itself was discussed to any great extent, or was it a controversial issue? I am referring to the border dividing the eastern part from Nunassiaq.

Mr. DESROCHERS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Simpson, there was considerable discussion on the question of the border. The administration had asked certain government departments as I recall to outline the principles that usually govern a decision on boundary questions. There was quite heated debate in the council. There was a question of high water points discussed, and there were some who favoured the extension of the Manitoba-Saskatchewan line. There were individuals who favoured a high water point, but I remember there was considerable discussion, and this line was finally adopted. This question was studied at some length.

Mr. SIMPSON: During your travels in the eastern district have you come in contact with any group or groups of people, or natives in the area, who are concerned about this proposed border? In general can you tell me anything about what some of the people in the eastern proposed Nunassiaq territory think about the proposed border?

Mr. DESROCHERS: When we went to Cape Dorset in the summer of 1962, I did hear opposition to the principle of division expressed by some residents, but not native residents. The question of the actual boundary lines was never discussed in my presence by a resident of the eastern area.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Turner, Mr. Roxburgh and Mr. Harley have indicated that they wish to speak.

Mr. TURNER: Arising out of some of the subsequent questions I am prompted to ask a few more of Mr. Desrochers.

In the area referred to by Mr. Rheaume in the east, which we might call north Baffin Island, Cornwallis, would there be some difficulty for a man to campaign in that area without a party organization behind him? You do not have party government out there?

Mr. DESROCHERS: Not at all.

Mr. TURNER: So, as I understand it, one man would be on his own resources to campaign in that area.

Mr. DESROCHERS: Yes.

Mr. TURNER: Would that have a bearing on the practicality that you mentioned?

Mr. DESROCHERS: A very great bearing, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Turner, and not only in that constituency. I think that applies to all the constituencies in the Northwest Territories even as they now exist. I made some remarks earlier about the honorarium; I do not know if the elected members mentioned anything about this, but I think with the responsibilities that they have some adjustment should be made because of the fantastic travelling costs and the expenses that should be incurred for the proper discharge of their duties as elected members of the council. Those distances are fantastic.

Mr. TURNER: Mr. Knud Lang when he was in Ottawa said, if I recall correctly, that the reason there was apathy, if there was apathy, to the proposed division was that there was little opposition and that a northerner does not bother to write letters if he does not oppose. Is that a fair statement?

Mr. DESROCHERS: I cannot answer that. I do not profess to be an authority on the personality of northerners. I find them very interesting people and very forthright people to speak to. I do not know whether they are as forthright when it comes to sitting down to write a letter. I think even in southern Canada, or "outside" as we say in this context, people do not react immediately to any proposal such as this one. I do not know. I cannot measure, personally, the amount of sympathy there is towards this proposal or the amount of antipathy. I have not the means of doing that.

Mr. TURNER: Could you expand on your earlier remark that there were invitations sent to the residents of the area for their views on the proposed division?

Mr. DESROCHERS: Yes. The history of that was in July, 1961, the division proposal was studied by the council at Fort Simpson. I expressed some doubts at that time, and all those who favoured the division on the council recognized that the residents of the territory should be given yet another opportunity to express themselves on this matter, in addition to that afforded to them through their elected representatives. It was as a result of this decision that the administration was requested to prepare a brief, a copy of which I have in my files which I think was quite well prepared, in fact very well prepared in summary form. It was not too long to prevent people from tackling it. It was circulated throughout the territories, as I understand it. With regard to the method of circulation, I know nothing, but I do know that some people spoke to me and wrote to me about it, and the way they did proved that they had received this paper and that they had considered it. I think the administration would be able to tell you exactly how it was circulated.

Mr. RHEAUME: On the same line, Mr. Chairman, the suggestion was made to you that it would be possible for a candidate for example, if he had Baffin Island as his constituency, to get around without the support of the party organization, and I think you agreed.

Mr. DESROCHERS: I did not agree with that.

Mr. RHEAUME: It would be extremely difficult?

Mr. TURNER: I said in practicality it would be more difficult to get around without financing. I said it would be more difficult in practicality to get around that type of constituency, but I did not say it was impossible. It would not be impossible for some men to do it on their own.

Mr. RHEAUME: The distances a man would have to travel to get around a constituency of that size is the difficulty.

Mr. DESROCHERS: Yes.

Mr. RHEAUME: Are you aware that the Department of Northern Affairs has regional offices, for example at Frobisher Bay, to cover the entire Baffin Island area?

Mr. DESROCHERS: Yes.

Mr. RHEAUME: Would you agree if the vote were extended that councillors could have made available to them the transportation services that are available to regional administrators, in other words hitching rides on aircraft, as is often the case?

Mr. DESROCHERS: Yes.

Mr. RHEAUME: Would it be difficult to expect councillors to represent the area that an area administrator represents?

Mr. DESROCHERS: It is difficult for me to answer that because I do not know to what extent the staff of northern administration travels and when it travels and what justifies a trip. What I mean is that because of the great distances and the sparse population it is much more difficult for the representative to get the feeling of his people.

Mr. RHEAUME: But on the assumption that the regional administrators of the Department of Northern Affairs in fact know the problems and in fact travel around and visit the people whom they are administering, on that assumption—

Mr. DESROCHERS: Oh yes, on that assumption.

Mr. TURNER: On a point of order, on that assumption it might be a little difficult to assume the federal government would be itself in a position to open its planes to one or more candidates unless it took them all around at the same time.

Mr. DESROCHERS: That is what I mean.

Mr. RHEAUME: I am talking about representatives after they have been elected, not candidates.

Mr. ROXBURGH: Some of these questions have been answered, but Mr. Desrochers could perhaps give me some information.

You mentioned earlier on that there was one of the elected members who was very much against the idea of appointed members, that after he was on the council for some time he had a change of mind. What would be his reason? He must have a reason.

Mr. DESROCHERS: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Roxburgh, it is difficult for me to answer that, but I think the problems that are brought before the council are quite complex and go from A to Z and that the elected member in question realizes that the average human being cannot have all the knowledge he would like to have on matters from A to Z, and by having these others who have experiences other than his, whether in the field of business or whether in the field of a profession, or in government activity, the contribution these other people could make was helpful to him. It helped him to understand the issues and helped him to determine whether the administration was presenting what is best in the circumstances.

Mr. ROXBURGH: In other words, if tomorrow they threw out the appointed members, it would be some years before the elected members would have the over-all knowledge to conduct the business of the Northwest Territories, before sufficient administrative ability could be collected from Frobisher Bay or any other place you wanted. Do you think an elected member could at the present time replace an appointed member?

Mr. RHEAUME: Very definitely. He could replace an appointed member because I think that his local knowledge, as you may call it, is vastly more important than the so-called expert type. Not one of us is an expert in anything on this council, at least I am not and I should not speak for the others,—and we are not able to give the so-called expert contribution which we are expected to make. We just serve as a third sounding board, a third opposition.

Mr. DINSDALE: Like the Senate.

Mr. TURNER: Perhaps a little more active!

Mr. ROXBURGH: Do you yourself feel you should do away with appointed members at once? Do you feel that it is practical to do so or should they remain, as has been suggested by some of the elected members, for a number of years to readjust? Do you feel there should be more elected members and that these appointed members should still continue for so many years?

Mr. DESROCHERS: I cannot pin it down to any number of years, Mr. Roxburgh, but I think for a maximum of seven to ten years. While the population is as it is now, 23,000 for the entire area, it is extremely difficult to get from that population possibly all the points of view that could be acquired from a population of 80,000, 90,000 or 100,000—and the experiences. For that reason there is in my opinion merit in retaining one, two or three, depending on circumstances, appointed members. For example, the question of municipal affairs, municipal administration, questions of health have to be attended to. There is a question of policy relating to these matters which has to be attended to. When you have a representation from a population of only 23,000, you have fewer chances of finding therein people with experience in these fields. I am not saying there are none. Ideally speaking and hypothetically speaking there must be fewer, and that is what impels me to say that for the next few years, while the population remains at that level and because of the responsibilities—because after all the responsibilities of this council from a legislative standpoint are just about as great and important as a provincial legislature—there should be more breadth of experience, and this is a means of providing that. I am not suggesting this to say there is not in the territories the ability to do this, but it is just that because of the smaller population fewer people of those who are capable find the council work accessible to them.

Mr. TURNER: Especially when compounded by distance?

Mr. DESROCHERS: Right.

Mr. RHEAUME: On this specific point I would like to pose a question to Mr. Desrochers. If this same expert advice were made available to a fully elective council, without allowing the experts also to vote, would that in your opinion overcome the problem of the need for broader opinion and expertise?

Mr. DESROCHERS: Not fully, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Rheaume, because the expert, if he is called as an expert, acts as an expert; and my experience in this field is that an expert does not like generally to suggest policy or to take stands. I do not know if I am making myself clear.

Mr. RHEAUME: Yes.

Mr. DESROCHERS: Whereas if the man, not necessarily an expert—I should not have used that word to start with—if a man with other experiences is committed and is responsible, and I do not speak for myself, but the others have displayed evidence of very great responsibility—if he is responsible he is much more committed and whatever experiences he has will be loaned, so to speak, to the work of the council or to the work of the administration much more effectively, and he will take a stand because of his constant association with his colleagues who are elected and will receive some of the influence of the community itself. I know personally that I feel much more attuned to the feelings of the Northwest Territories residents now than I did three years ago. I am presumptuous enough to say that.

Mr. ROXBURGH: Just one more question, Mr. Desrochers. On the constituencies that would be formed in the east, have you any idea as to the number of representatives there should be? Assume the division down the centre. Should it be in proportion to the population? If it were, there would not be

very many people representing the east. Or should it be in a special constituency itself? How many and what percentage would represent east as compared with west?

Mr. DESROCHERS: I think we usually work on a 24,000 population basis. The scheme that I have in mind contemplates five from the west and two from the east. That may be a little higher, for the population breakdown is roughly two-thirds to one-third, but it is not bad. This is not bad. It is two out of seven for one-third.

Mr. RHEAUME: This is on your proposed Northwest Territories council?

Mr. DESROCHERS: Yes.

Mr. ROXBURGH: That is made up of elected members only?

Mr. DESROCHERS: Yes.

Mr. ROXBURGH: Then you would add, as I understand, another four appointed members who would have voting power.

Mr. DESROCHERS: Yes.

Mr. ROXBURGH: In other words, if there was a quite serious problem at least the east would be able to vote in favour if it was practical?

Mr. DESROCHERS: Yes.

Mr. ROXBURGH: I think that is more than ever the reason why appointed members should still continue for some time, because under that set-up the west would just run the show, and that is the whole thing in a nutshell; that is it. It would be just exactly the present situation with your appointed members, which everyone is talking about. The appointed members run the show.

Mr. DESROCHERS: Mr. Roxburgh, I think I have to try to set the record straight on that. Throughout my years on the council the appointed members have consistently taken the position in practice that the elected members are given every opportunity of giving to the council what are the views of the residents of the Northwest Territories on any matter. We then, with humility—and I say that sincerely, we then with humility put in our pennies' worth relating those experiences to the "outside". There has never to my knowledge been a recorded vote or any vote in which there was a decision made by the appointed members out-voting elected members. I have seen many cases of committee recommendations and things of that nature being divided by a majority consisting of elected and appointed against elected and appointed members.

Mr. ROXBURGH: I am glad to hear you say that because I misunderstood Mr. Rheaume in another meeting. I thought he pointed out the fact that that had happened. I apologize. I had that in mind. I do think in these other circumstances your idea sounds good for the future.

That is all I have to say.

Mr. HARLEY: I have one very brief question. Is it fair to say that one of your major objections, which you mentioned at the very first, is that the splitting of the territory was a split off of the east, which has a great deal of natural resources which the west actually needs for its proper development.

Mr. DESROCHERS: No. If I may say so, that is over simplifying it.

Mr. HARLEY: I was trying to simplify it.

Mr. DESROCHERS: As I understand it, the Shield more or less takes this line here on the map. What concerned me at the time when I first heard about this was that if we set the line here, and if we assumed that this was going to develop very rapidly and become responsible and one day be in a position to take control of the natural resources and derive the revenue therefrom, and

that this other part was not—if we fixed the line at this time we might be depriving the western area of possible resources which would be within a workable distance of the arbitrarily set border. We might later regret that action, or at least the western part might regret it, the western part being more autonomous than the eastern, the eastern part being more related, revenue-wise, to the whole of Canada.

The CHAIRMAN: You indicated the Shield ran in this way. Perhaps you should explain what this is.

Mr. DINSDALE: I think Canadians' general knowledge of their geography will be sufficient for them to know where it is. I think we know where the great Canadian Shield is located.

Mr. TURNER: We can leave the Shield without explanation as it is a geographic phenomenon, but it should be stated that when you were referring to "this line" you were referring first to the proposed boundary line; then you referred to the Mackenzie territory; and then to the proposed Nunassiat territory.

Mr. DESROCHERS: That is right.

At that time, Mr. Chairman, when I first had this feeling the boundary question had not been decided so we did not know where this line was going to be. I still think the objection should be considered because the line is I think in a position of importance right now.

Mr. DINSDALE: Mr. Chairman, earlier in his remarks Mr. Desrochers said, and I am paraphrasing, that the north was on the eve of a great boom, or a great period of development. Perhaps the witness could be more specific and indicate to the committee just what this boom might be based on and what will bring it about?

Mr. DESROCHERS: Mr. Chairman, let me preface that remark by saying I am not an economic expert or anything of that nature.

The fact that has always been presented as being the cause of the holdback in the Northwest Territories relates to the problem of transportation and particularly in connection with the development of natural resources and mining. It is expected by the residents of the Northwest Territories that natural resources will cause development in the Northwest Territories with the changing of facilities and better facilities for air transportation; with the existing highway system, which is important, and as a result of the commencement of the transportation by rail to the great lake. I feel that that fact will be to a large degree effected and there will result some fruition to the prospecting work that has been going on. We may see the development of natural resources where we might not otherwise have seen it within the next ten years.

Mr. DINSDALE: I think you are aware as a former member of the council of the oil exploration that is going on in the north at the moment. The current drilling would all lie within the eastern part of the Arctic. Would this have any bearing on your attitude toward the division or on the attitude of the easterners and westerners toward division and I refer to the possibility of the great oil potential there?

Mr. DESROCHERS: My objection was based on the premise that one could develop and the other could not. I do not now agree with that premise. The oil reserves are certainly material, but in my mind the fact that the oil is east or west, as I understand the problem, has no bearing, and there should be no division as I said earlier, and the people of the northwest as a whole should enjoy the natural resources, whether they are east or west of the line.

Mr. DINSDALE: Would you say the fact, which has been stated several times this morning, that the east has developed more slowly has relation in terms of population, exploration, education or general economic progress?

Mr. DESROCHERS: When this phrase has been used I have always understood it to mean it was the slowness of activity generally in the fields which you have indicated. Of course, in respect of population I do not think it has to do with an increase.

Mr. DINSDALE: Is the birth rate not higher?

Mr. DESROCHERS: The birth rate is higher, but by an increasing population I mean an increase in the population which may come from outside, drawn by industry and development. I have always interpreted that phrase to also mean that there was less education and generally less contact with the so called white civilization, keeping in mind all of the attendant corollaries of that statement.

Mr. DINSDALE: Would you suggest there has been a change in that respect in recent years?

Mr. DESROCHERS: Mr. Chairman, I saw the east once and that was in 1962. We visited parts of Baffin island; we visited parts of Southampton island and we visited one centre on the west coast of Hudson bay.

I cannot make any comparison with what existed before, but from the information that was given me there on the occasion of these visits, much development has taken place within the last 10, 12 or 15 years. Consequently, the thing was being worked out.

Mr. TURNER: To your knowledge, Mr. Desrochers, what is the reason for the opposition in the Yellowknife area to this proposed division?

Mr. DESROCHERS: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Turner, I do not know of any single reason for the opposition. I have heard statements to the effect that it would impose burdens. I do not see why that would be so.

Mr. TURNER: Burdens by way of what?

Mr. DESROCHERS: By way of taxation.

Mr. TURNER: You do not agree with that or you do not see it?

Mr. DESROCHERS: I do not see it necessarily. I cannot give to the committee any assistance as to the reasons of the Yellowknife opposition.

Mr. TURNER: Does it relate to the choice of the capital to a certain extent?

Mr. DESROCHERS: No, I think not. The people I know who oppose it opposed it before the recommendation of the capital site was made; and they are being consistent in their opposition, they are still opposing it.

Mr. ROXBURGH: On the information you have, what would be your main reason for non-division?

Mr. DESROCHERS: Possibly because of my professional background; I am a lawyer. I cannot see that a case has been made out for it. When you want to change a situation you have to make a case and in my opinion the burden has not been discharged, and I say this sincerely and in all honesty. That burden has not been discharged. Many good arguments have been presented for it, but the arguments, in my mind, are such that they leave room for other solutions to achieve the desired ends.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions?

Thank you very much, Mr. Desrochers.

Do any members presume they will wish to question Mr. Desrochers further? I believe we can give him his leave of absence and thank him very much for coming.

There is one point I should like to bring to your attention before we adjourn. Mr. Williams is in Ottawa and he has sent a wire to say that he would

greatly appreciate it if his return reservation from Ottawa, Winnipeg, Churchill could be made for the evening of Sunday, December 15 as he is desirous of getting away. He is afraid of being stranded in the south for Christmas.

I understand the estimates of the Department of Northern Affairs may come up this afternoon in the house. In this case it would seem that it would be impossible for the committee to meet this afternoon.

Mr. TURNER: According to the house leader last night the estimates of northern affairs will be considered after orders of the day.

The CHAIRMAN: Then can we meet tonight?

I will explore the possibility of meeting this evening. In the meantime the meeting is adjourned to the call of the Chair.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

First Session—Twenty-sixth Parliament

1963

STANDING COMMITTEE

ON

MINES, FORESTS AND WATERS

Chairman: OSIAS GODIN, Esq.

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AND EVIDENCE

No. 5

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1963

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1963

Respecting

BILL C-83 (Subject)

An Act to amend the Northwest Territories Act and to rename the said Territories, and to effect certain consequential changes in the Statute Law with respect thereto.

and BILL C-84 (Subject)

An Act respecting the Nunassiaq Territory.

WITNESSES:

Mr. Robert Williamson from Rankin Inlet, Northwest Territories; Reverend Father Louis Lemer, O.M.I. Missionary from Cambridge Bay, Northwest Territories and Mr. Justice J. H. Sissons, from Yellowknife, Judge of the Territorial Court of the Northwest Territories.

ROGER DUHAMEL, F.R.S.C.
QUEEN'S PRINTER AND CONTROLLER OF STATIONERY
OTTAWA, 1964

STANDING COMMITTEE ON MINES, FORESTS AND WATERS

Chairman: Osias Godin, Esq.

Vice-Chairman: Grant Deachman, Esq.

and Messrs.

Alkenbrack	Gendron	Martin (<i>Timmins</i>)
Asselin (<i>Richmond- Wolfe</i>)	Godin	Martineau
Berger	Granger	Mitchell
Blouin	Gray	Moreau
Cadieu (<i>Meadow Lake</i>)	Grégoire	Nielsen
Cyr	Habel	Rhéaume
Deachman	Harley	Rideout
Dinsdale	Howard	Roxburgh
Doucett	Kindt	Simpson
Fleming (<i>Okanagan- Revelstoke</i>)	Korchinski	Turner
Flemming (<i>Victoria- Carleton</i>)	Laprise	Watson (<i>Châteauguay- Huntingdon-Laprairie</i>)
	Leboe	—35.
	Leduc	
	Loney	

(Quorum 10)

Maxime Guitard,
Clerk of the Committee.

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

MONDAY, December 16, 1963.

(12)

The Standing Committee on Mines, Forests and Waters met at 4:28 o'clock p.m. this day. The Chairman, Mr. Osias J. Godin, presided.

Members present: Messrs. Alkenbrack, Cyr, Deachman, Dinsdale, Godin, Gray, Harley, Laprise, Leduc, Loney, Nielsen, Rhéaume, Simpson, Turner, Watson (*Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*)—(15).

In attendance: Mr. Robert Williamson, Rankin Inlet, Northwest Territories.

The Committee resumed consideration of Bills C-83 and C-84.

The Chairman invited Mr. Robert Williamson to read a prepared statement, and a question period ensued.

And the examination of the witness continuing, at 6:05 o'clock p.m. the Committee adjourned until this evening at 8:00 o'clock p.m.

EVENING SITTING

(13)

The Chairman, Mr. Osias J. Godin, presiding, the Committee convened at 8:13 o'clock p.m. this evening to resume consideration of Bills C-83 and C-84.

Members present: Messrs. Alkenbrack, Berger, Cyr, Dinsdale, Doucett, Godin, Harley, Korchinski, Loney, Nielsen, Rhéaume, Roxburgh, Turner, Watson (*Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*), Simpson—(15).

In attendance: Mr. Robert Williamson, Rankin Inlet, Northwest Territories, and Rev. Father Louis Lemer, O.M.I., Missionary.

The Committee completed the examination of Mr. Williamson who retired after the Chairman thanked him for his appearance.

The Committee then heard Father Lemer, O.M.I., from Cambridge Bay, who made a statement and was thoroughly examined.

His examination being concluded, Reverend Father Louis Lemer, O.M.I. was thanked by the Chairman and retired.

At 10:25 o'clock p.m. the Committee adjourned until Tuesday afternoon at 4:00 o'clock p.m.

TUESDAY, December 17, 1963.

(14)

The Standing Committee on Mines, Forests and Waters met at 4:33 o'clock p.m. this day. The Chairman, Mr. Osias J. Godin, presided.

Members present: Messrs. Alkenbrack, Cyr, Dinsdale, Doucett, Godin, Leduc, Loney, Nielsen, Rhéaume, Simpson, Turner—(11).

In attendance: Mr. Justice J. H. Sissons, Judge of the Territorial Court of the Northwest Territories.

The Committee resumed consideration of Bills C-83 and C-84.

The Chairman invited Judge J. H. Sissons to make a general statement before being thoroughly questioned.

The Committee completed the examination of Judge Sissons who retired after the Chairman thanked him for his appearance.

At 6:05 o'clock p.m. the Committee adjourned until Wednesday at 9:00 o'clock a.m.

Maxime Guitard,
Clerk of the Committee.

EVIDENCE

MONDAY, December 16, 1963.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, we have a quorum. Good afternoon to both members and witnesses.

The clerk of the committee handed me a list concerning the witnesses. I believe we could follow this order, unless the witnesses themselves have a preference and would like to come before us in a different order.

First on my list is Mr. Robert Williamson, then we have Father Lemer; third on my list is Judge Sissons and Mr. de Weerd.

It is possible that we will finish before dinner. However, if we do not, we may decide later whether or not to proceed tonight, to assist the witnesses who undoubtedly have a long travel ahead of them. We can solve these problems when we reach them.

We now have before us Mr. Williamson from Rankin Inlet.

Mr. Williamson has been in the Canadian north since 1951 and has worked both in the Arctic and along the Mackenzie river. He is a graduate in arts (anthropology) from Carleton university. Mr. Williamson is the foremost Eskimo linguist in the north today, because he has mastered all Eskimo dialects. He served as an officer of the department of northern affairs for eight years, some of it in Ottawa and some in the north. He resigned from the civil service in the spring of 1963 and now makes his home in Rankin Inlet. He is writing a book on the economic and social evolution of the north and the Eskimo's role in the north. Present income consists of a Canada Council grant plus part time work for the C.B.C. as the Keewatin reporter in Eskimo and English.

This information is probably familiar to most of the members.

Mr. Williamson, it has been our practice to hear general comments on your point of view concerning the two bills before us. I presume you have read them both. After that, the committee asks questions on additional information. You can feel free at this time to inform the committee of your main views concerning the two bills in question, and later, of course, members will follow with questions.

MR. ROBERT WILLIAMSON (*Rankin Inlet, Northwest Territories*): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have prepared a written statement for the benefit of the committee and also for the benefit of myself because I think I am too tired to speak extemporaneously any more. I have not had much sleep in the last four days. My mind will run blindly along the tracks I have already written for myself.

Mr. Chairman, hon. members; I would hope that it is with a great sense of history that all of us are participating in these unique and vitally important deliberations. I would like first, against this background of our appreciation of the historic role we are playing, to speak favorably in the strongest possible language of the intention of the Mackenzie and Nunassiat bills. No true northerner could in all conscience oppose the intent of legislation designed to give our part of the country more self-determination. We in the north desperately need, deserve and are more than ready for a much greater degree of self-government. I am speaking now, not only of the Mackenzie basin, but of the districts of Keewatin and Franklin, in what is generically known as the eastern Arctic.

Many of us in the north, must however, confess to a sense of malaise about the way in which these two bills were prepared. The intention is good, but the execution has so far been half-hearted, lacking in thorough understanding and perception of modern northern realities, and just plain undemocratic.

I am sure it is not necessary to remind this distinguished gathering, on the eve of the nation's centenary that this legislation will decide, for all time, the final shape of our Canadian confederation. This historic task, gentlemen, is now directly and personally in your hands and on your consciences, and history itself will decide on the legislative statesmanship and far-sightedness of the men who frame and ratify this legislation.

We pride ourselves on being one of the most balanced, broad-minded and genuinely democratic nations in all the free world. Remembering this, it is shocking and disgraceful in the eyes of the world that the people most directly concerned and forever the most directly affected by this legislation—have not in any way whatsoever been properly represented in the preparatory deliberations. The people of the eastern Arctic had no voice on the council, made up of the four elected men of the Mackenzie river, and five Ottawa appointees and the senior civil servant of Ottawa who presided over them which decided upon the division of the Northwest Territories.

People of the eastern Arctic were not consulted at all. Gentlemen, we have not been even officially informed about these decisions of such vital importance. They have been made over our heads and with no reference to us.

I truly believe that the past commissioner for the Northwest Territories, Mr. Gordon Robertson, did his very best to inform the northern people personally through the medium of a series of excellent broadcasts made on northern service of the C.B.C. I am sure that only the enormous office administrative responsibilities, and not any lack of sincerity—was the reason that Mr. Robertson was never able to learn the language of the majority of the people in the eastern Arctic. His words therefore were understood only by the comparatively small number of English-speaking people who happened to be listening to his broadcasts, and the proportion of those who could and would communicate the substance of these talks to the Eskimo population is even more limited. The council of the Northwest Territories did deliberate on the division in Cape Dorset on Baffin island but, through no one's fault, the local people were not able to gain much idea of what was going on. The consideration of the division has been underdevelopment in the department of northern affairs since at least 1958, during which time the Eskimo language translator staff of the department of northern affairs has increased. However, in all this past time, there has not been circulated in the eastern Arctic one piece of information to tell the people of these major constitutional developments. I know, Mr. Chairman, from personal experience, that the burden of the Eskimo translators of the department of northern affairs is enormous. I know too that the rendering into the Eskimo language of the minute details of this legislation would be very difficult. But I know also that in the total time available and with the resources available something could have been produced to inform the Eskimo population of the eastern Arctic about the essential aspects and major implications of the planned legislation. Nothing, Mr. Chairman, nothing has been done. Certainly the problems of the translator services are great—but not so great as to completely excuse this utter neglect of any Canadian citizen's basic right.

I have made it my business to attempt, by every possible means, to inform myself about these constitutional developments. The Prime Minister has written in detail and with great concern and courtesy in his letters to me in reply to my inquiries. Mr. Laing, the Minister of Northern Affairs and

National Resources, has been equally gracious. I have received information from the members of parliament for the Northwest Territories, and I read *Hansard* with such assiduousness that I might well be accused of self-flagellation. My ear has ached with my painful efforts to leach the vaguest snippets of information from the cacophonous outpourings of my radio sets. Not many of my fellow northerners enjoy such facilities for information-gathering as I. But even so at the moment that I arrived in Ottawa to meet this committee I did not have the slightest idea as to whether the Northwest Territories still had a legal territorial government, or if it had ceased to exist, if its term had been extended or if indeed the normal democratic process of governance for the north country had been thereby suspended, accomplishing the liquidation of our council in the euphoric gas-chambers of Ottawa. How much less the majority of our northern citizens know about this whole sorry legislative mess is demonstrated by the fact that very recently one of the most intelligent and dedicated field administrators of the department of northern affairs told me that he believed that something was going on in Ottawa designed to create two new federal constituencies in the Northwest Territories! There have been no pamphlets in Eskimo. Administrators have not been instructed to hold meetings or in any way inform local residents of these historical developments concerning their own country. In fact, they have not even been informed themselves. All of this demonstrates on the part of the powers that be a very cavalier attitude toward our part of the north.

It appears, from my reading of a departmental information sheet distributed only in the west, that the reason for the division is the alleged vastness of the differences between the eastern part of the Arctic and the western part, and that the pace of progress in the western part is much greater than that of the east.

I submit to you, Mr. Chairman, and hon. members, that the similarities sociologically across the whole of the Northwest Territories are much more significant than any of the admitted differences. Seen with a proper sense of sociologic and historic proportion—the Northwest Territories is relatively the most homogeneous unit in the whole Canadian confederation. The way of life in Eskimo Point is not radically different than that in Fort Good Hope. Life in Inuvik is largely and in some ways tragically similar to life in Frobisher Bay. Basically the north is made up of a traditionally hunting and trapping society, now drawn progressively more into centres of industrial, military and administrative development. The social problems are strikingly similar. There is nowhere in the Northwest Territories where the way of life differs so enormously as between Attawapiscat, near James bay and Toronto, which are both in Ontario, or between Ivugvik, on Hudson's bay, in the province of Quebec, and Montreal, P.Q. But no one has seriously suggested making two provinces out of northern and southern Ontario and northern and southern Quebec. The wide differences in provincial districts are appropriately represented in the provincial legislature. I would like to ask what would be the reaction of any hon. member here if a group of decision makers in a neighbouring province, out-numbered and overwhelmed by Ottawa appointees—decided without reference to your constituents that your province be divided up for someone else's administrative convenience. In the total social and economic process of development in the Northwest Territories, the pace of change in the eastern Arctic is not likely to be a delaying factor in the progress of the whole of the north. In fact, from the point of view of economic and human possibilities they already assume a potential which is positively breath-taking. Progress has started, and it is developing pace, socially and economically—in the manner of a geometrical progression. It gets broader and faster all the time.

United, the Northwest Territories population with its unique and fascinating mosaic pattern of cultural heritage—can offer to the Canadian confederation and the world a richer and more distinctive social entity than any other out-growth from the old world now making its contribution to the Canadian community.

Most of us in the north feel that the “Ottawa” attitude concerning the eastern Arctic and its part in this new legislation has been remote, uncommitted and disdainful. I know that senior and responsible executives would deny this with genuine feeling, but that is the impression which has been given. In the information paper to which I referred earlier, there was a phrase which seems to epitomize this unfortunate attitude. The Northwest Territories is almost as big as the rest of Canada, and Canada is the second largest country in the world. The eastern Arctic is larger than the prairie provinces put together. It contains a population made up of the most intelligent and resourceful people in the world. Its economic possibilities are great. But in the government's information paper, this whole great area was dismissed as the “residual part of the Northwest Territories”. Mr. Chairman, this reminds me of the phrase of the Kaiser when he dismissed our expeditionary forces in the first war as “that contemptible little army”. This was an army which fought back, won and taught the Kaiser and the world greater respect. There are men today, veterans who proudly call themselves the old contemptibles. I shall be equally proud in future years to be called one of the “old residuals”.

To examine for a moment the Nunassiat bill, I am disturbed to see that it allows for only two elected representatives on its territorial council, with the overwhelming majority of the decision makers to be made up of Ottawa appointees, presided over by a senior Ottawa civil servant resident here in this remote and southern-oriented centre of bureaucracy. We in the eastern Arctic are ready for a much greater degree of self-government than that.

Another striking anomaly of the Nunassiat bill is the arbitrary line thrown like a whiplash across the north, to sever a large part of its population from any form of territorial vote. The reason given for denying representation to the people north of this line is the expense involved in giving them the franchise. We in the north cannot accept pecuniary excuses for denying any Canadian his democratic right. This move is particularly strange and contradictory when you realize that parliament has already given the vote to all northern Canadians for the selection of a member of the federal parliament. But now the House of Commons is asked to deny these same northern people the right to vote for a councillor in their own local, territorial affairs. This contradiction, based on financial considerations, is strikingly pointed up when it is already accepted as only right that thousands of dollars should be spent to deliver ballot boxes for the half dozen white men serving as weather observers at the satellite posts of the high Arctic. If the seven men at Alert are worth enfranchisement for federal purposes, how much more so are the 300 people of Igloodik, 864 miles to their south, in deciding on their local affairs.

I would not wish any of my remarks to be interpreted as lacking in approval of the dedicated and fine work of the department of northern affairs. As a past member of this government agency I can attest to the idealism and incredible hard work of many of its servants, who have worked 16 to 20 hours a day, every day of the week for years, with great intensity, driven by the desire to make up for what Prime Minister St. Laurent once admitted in the house had been decades of administrative and legislative absence of mind. These outstanding and exceptional Canadians, the cream of the world's best civil service have in a decade tremendously changed the ancient and care worn face of the Arctic. In recent years, with the proliferation of bureaucratic processes, its original great momentum has inevitably slowed up, and

Parkinson's law has taken over. This is a serious problem for the north when so much control is in the hands of southern residents. A move for much greater and more effectual self-government in the north must be made now. Now is the time to realistically, wholeheartedly and thoroughly give more control over their affairs to the northern people themselves. Even the translator difficulties which I referred to earlier and which partly account for our lack of information on this legislation—need not have become so great if the administration had moved more effectively into the north.

Now the ills of absentee control are compounding daily, and the dead hand of bureaucracy is having a stifling effect. My own observations and those of many of my ex-colleagues of the department show with almost dramatic despair that the morale of almost every department of northern affairs employee in the north has deteriorated to an almost pathological degree. Sincere men have become so frustrated in their attempts to do good and take direct action to improve the situations for which they are responsible that many have given up. Ottawa has changed its northern field staff from a team of idealistic doers into a sad and stultifying sprawl of bureaucratic beatniks. Applications for transfers out of the north and out of the department have become frighteningly frequent. The oft-repeated phrase is "I can't do that because Ottawa would drop on me from a great height." The attitude of the average field officer to any demand upon him other than the manipulation of bureaucratic symbols—has deteriorated from inertia to automatic negativism. Office procedures seem more important than people, and some systems are now in action which no other Canadians would accept—but which the paper-encapsulated accountants are free to force on the Eskimo people.

A few examples from the Keewatin district. Departmental handicraft experts are entrusted with the evaluation of the products of the Eskimo craftsmakers, but they cannot pay for the work directly. They have to send through the mails a requisition to headquarters office for cheques. These cheques are automatically and unquestioningly made out and sent back, but the whole process often takes weeks, while the needful Eskimo craftsman waits, or draws credit but not cash from the local store. This has already caused a significant decline in the production of a valuable element in the northern economy. If a blizzard blocks the doorway of a young single teacher's house, the local area administrator has no way to hire casual labour to free her. The funds are "tied up" but he can write a memorandum to headquarters asking for a service contract for this work to be done. The same amount of money or more is expended, but with infinite delay and frustration.

The Canadian public as a whole has been recently told through the news media, of the disaster this year at Eskimo point in my home district. Over a hundred of the local Eskimo people, almost half of the population, were evacuated to sanatorium for tuberculosis. A very few were returned. The majority are still there and will continue to stay there, and the total cost to the Canadian taxpayer, we have been told by the director of the northern health branch—will exceed \$600,000. For some years the local department of northern affairs officials have been worried about the deadful living conditions of the Eskimo point people, and the most passionate appeals for some form of housing have been made. These ragged, demoralised and undernourished people lived, or subexisted and died miserably—in leaky tents and freezing igloos. The local pleas were only materially responded to after the disaster took place. It took a human disaster involving over half a million dollars, and extraordinary human deprivation and terrible misery to stimulate this needed response, not because the field officers of the department were negligent or not interested in the problem, but because they were not able to obtain sufficiently rapid response from the comfortably living executives who have final authority, and live in Ottawa. The blame does not lie in the department

of northern affairs completely. Treasury board and its endless entailments, has whitened the hair of this department. And treasury board is an instrument of the cabinet. Eskimo point is on our consciences, gentlemen. But, you may say, we didn't know. Exactly! There was no free voice there to cry warning. There was no chosen representative from among us to arouse public concern on behalf of his people. By the time that part of the north was even federally enfranchised, tuberculosis had already eaten away the inner fabric of these people—and the ultimate collapse was inevitable. And anyway, Eskimo point people learned in an earlier era, and are being retaught now—that if a “native” knows what's good for him—he will never complain, but keep his mouth shut, his smile fixed, and his manner respectful.

I spoke a little earlier of the enormous effort of the department of northern affairs in the last ten years. It is popular among many people to speak of the large amounts of money being poured into the north. That money was not excessive, but because the form of its expenditure was decided upon by southerners, a great deal was wasted. Here are some statistics presented by the northern health service which may give us some genuine measure of the progress in this last ten years. I say again, there has been great progress, but it could have been greater, and some of the inevitable casualties of economic and cultural change were added to by losses which need not have taken place. On the first page of its report on health conditions in the Northwest Territories, 1962, the department of national health states that last year the Eskimo crude death rate was nearly four times the white status rate and three times the all Canada rate. The infant death rate goes up after the first 28 days of the Eskimo baby's life. The report says “this points strongly to environmental factors—poor housing, relative lack of shelter and inadequate heating (borne out by the high death rate of pneumonia), lack of sanitary facilities and exposure to new strains of bacteria and virus as the north opens up . . .”

Here is an interesting statistic. There were eight suicides in the Northwest Territories, five amongst persons of white status and three among Eskimos.

Now please pay close attention to this statement. “There was a 25 per cent increase in new cases of tuberculosis over 1961. The rate of notified cases of gonorrhoea is about eight times the rate for Canada.” Is this progress?

There are two large, government-planned model town developments in the north, one at Inuvik in the Mackenzie delta and the other at Frobisher bay. The report says—“The illegitimacy rate among Eskimos living in the Mackenzie delta and at Frobisher bay is high . . .”

“There is no apparent change in the Eskimo infant mortality rate from last year. It is still shockingly high.” Is this progress?

The department of national health report contains a graph showing trends in Eskimo and all Canada infant mortality rates from 1951 to 1961—roughly the decade of the “great leap ahead” in the north. In this decade while infant deaths have gone down in the rest of Canada, among Eskimos they have actually gone up. The official report shows that the incidence of new active cases of tuberculosis among Eskimos and Indians appears higher in 1962 than in 1961: and that there was more gonorrhoea in the Northwest Territories in 1962 than for any year on record, with a rate nearly eight times the national rate.

The department of northern affairs made, a few years ago—a sincere attempt to clear its increasingly chaotic lines of communication—by setting up an organizational process called “decentralization”. In effect, this accomplished a decentralization of responsibility, but a centralization of authority in Ottawa. To this day, senior Ottawa officials are spending as much time on items of detail (which could be better handled in the north)—as they are on matters of broad policy and wider-range planning. Everything in the north of any significance is now referred to Ottawa. Great advances in communications have been

made, and for the regional and district administrator at Fort Smith, Yellowknife, Churchill and Frobisher—the telephone line has become his umbilical cord, linking him with this flabby, engorged and eclamptic uterus on the banks of the Ottawa River.

I can assure this committee and the Canadian public that the taxpayers' money will be saved substantially, if the executive power guiding the destinies of the north and governing the expenditure of public funds is vested in northern people. They will predictably (and this surely must be obvious to any person of common sense) have more knowledge and experience of the north. Their decisions will be realistic, knowledgeable, and practical. A totally-elected territorial council for the whole of the Northwest Territories, with a resident commissioner, will do a better job in the development of the north, and the administration of public funds than the best-intentioned and most capable executives living and drawing their understandings from the streets, back gardens and offices of Ottawa.

The justification for the presence of appointees on the territorial council has been that there is a need for the great experience and capability and special knowledge of such people. These appointed councillors have already demonstrated their interest, their tremendous competence, and their good will. But I suggest that they can still be available to a territorial council as advisers but not as decision makers, because democratically the decision makers should be elected representatives. Then the advisers will be serving exactly the same function as the advisers, who are legion in Ottawa and who so effectively serve the legislators of the nation here in the capital. One must accept the reality that federal funds in considerable amounts will be necessary for the subsidization of northern development for some time to come. This is no different than the support which most of the provinces of Canada receive. No one would seriously suggest, (if he wishes politically or in any other way publicly to survive)—that the federal government have unquestioned and complete control over the funds that it makes available to the provinces. That same principle should and must equally apply to the north.

Continuing the analogy to the provinces, I would also very strongly press for the representation, if only at first in the form of observers—of the territorial council at the dominion-provincial conferences which form such a significant part of our federal life.

In conclusion, I would suggest alternatives to the proposed legislation. First, the Northwest Territories Act should be amended to provide constituencies and elected councillors for every part of the Northwest Territories. If at some future moment a decision upon division of the territories were arrived at by a fully-elected territorial council representing every part of the north—the move would have much more democratic validity, with the added thrust of northern experience and reality.

I want to end with a word on behalf of the people who comprise the majority of the population of the eastern Arctic. This is a people who in a very short historical period conquered and successfully lived in the most difficult and merciless part of the world. They covered an area 4,000 miles wide from Alaska to eastern Greenland and extending from as far south as 600 miles north of Ottawa to 500 miles from the pole. All of this was done with no resources other than the skins and the bones of the country's hard-won game, and the great powers of endurance and resourcefulness of this exceptionally intelligent race. To survive in the north, one had to be intelligent. The less intelligent were simply eliminated by nature. This process, over 4,000 years, has bred a race of people who have a higher degree of intelligence among them than any other identifiable human group. I know that their capability, their resourcefulness, and their drive are enormous. They are a people of great sophistication.

In the home of the commonwealth's Queen, in a distinctive place, there is a soapstone carving of an Eskimo woman with a baby on her back. Similar great works of art now grace the palaces and chancellories of Europe and Asia. It has become common for the rock-like strength, the fluent power, and the great imagination of the Canadian people to be epitomised in its gifts to the nations of the world—by the carvings of Eskimo men like Manumi. The last time I say Manumi, one of the great carvers of Cape Dorset, he and I were working together with pick and shovel, building a new road from the beach to the new townsite of Frobisher bay. That road might serve us today as a symbol. Eight years ago, it led to hope. Today, in this place, that road has reached a turning point beyond which the future cannot be seen. Both the great governments of the past decade have demonstrated their faith in the north and its people. Now is your chance to give this faith its fullest meaning, by placing our own government in the north thoroughly in the hands of the northern people. Let it not be said by the watching world today and by the historians of the future that you did not wholeheartedly give us our chance.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Williamson, for your most colourful expose of the northern problem. I say this jokingly; but at times the evidence which we have had has been a geological description of the north and the Chairman wondered whether he should look around and ask some of the miners to leave the room at that point. We appreciate the work behind the brief which has been submitted. I, myself, and I am sure the members of the committee, would like to obtain clarification of many of the aspects of this brief. Are there any questions, gentlemen?

Mr. RHEAUME: At one point in the brief Mr. Williamson states this has been under consideration in the department of northern affairs since 1958. Evidence given before this committee earlier was to the effect that it was first suggested and brought before the territorial council in late 1960 or early 1961 by councillor Knut Lang of the Mackenzie delta. I would like Mr. Williamson to clear up this point. As an official of the department of northern affairs, in 1958, were you aware that it was proposed to divide the Northwest Territories into two districts?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: I believe this was the time I first heard about it, when I was serving in the department in Ottawa. There was a meeting of the Ottawa officials and one of the senior executives at that time did bring forth the plan for the division. At that stage it was a plan of phased changes toward this division. There was a meeting and I remember this being outlined at that time. It was talked about in the department, as I remember it, for quite a number of years.

Mr. DINSDALE: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Williamson used the phrase "phased changes leading ultimately to division". Would he say now what was the nature of these various phases or changes which would ultimately lead to division? Is that asking too much of the witness' memory?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: Mr. Chairman, do I address you?

The CHAIRMAN: You address me, but through me the entire committee.

Mr. WILLIAMSON: As a simple northerner, I have to get my protocol straight.

The CHAIRMAN: We do not pay too much attention to protocol in this committee.

Mr. WILLIAMSON: No sir; I am afraid I do not remember the details of this phased plan, except that I believe at first there was to be the drawing up of the idea, its discussion—frankly, I must admit that each phase of the plan does not remain very clearly in my rather tired mind at this moment. I do remem-

ber, however, there were phases in the plan, ultimately accomplishing division of the territories in 1963. It was laid out year by year, and I think was to be done by the spring of 1963.

Mr. DINSDALE: The two bills before the committee largely are the result of the recommendations of the Northwest Territories council. From the information given in this very interesting brief, I come to the conclusion that the recommendations of the Northwest Territories council would have been much different had the views of the eastern Arctic been heard in that body. Is that correct?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: I believe so, sir, from my own unofficial discussions with eastern Arctic people. I am stating a personal opinion here, sir; I do not pretend to represent anybody. I have not been sent here by anybody. I have been called by the House of Commons. I travel fairly extensively through the eastern Arctic. I have discussed this sort of thing with people, and I have found that in discussing it I have had to outline the whole plan, because very, very few people know anything about it. However, when the idea is opened up, most people I have heard talk about it—and I am speaking of Eskimos as well as white people—seem to feel this move in respect of division is not a necessary one, or at least one about which they would have liked to have been more informed in respect of the full implications before they would make up their minds about it. Does that answer the question?

Mr. DINSDALE: Yes. With reference to the attitude of the eastern Arctic, it was my understanding there had been discussion concerning a name for the new eastern territory; that this had been discussed extensively among the Eskimo population, and that it was such discussion which resulted in the selection of a typical Eskimo name. Were you aware of any activity of this kind in the eastern Arctic?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman; I was. There was a sheet sent around in Eskimo land saying "This is how it is going to be; so you can choose the best name". We were not asked "Would you like to voice your opinions on this", but simply were told the north is going to be divided into two; "we in our wisdom have decided this, but you can decide on the name". The Eskimos finally did choose the name Nunassiaq, which is a very nice name; I think it is a pleasant one. But this is all the say the people of the north had in respect of this whole legislation—the name of the territory. I feel that this should have been one of the minor details, and that perhaps it would have been better had the serious constitutional implications been discussed with the residents of the Northwest Territories in the east.

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): Mr. Williamson, at the end of the first paragraph on page 9 of your brief, you make a very serious charge, when you say:

Anyway, Eskimo point people learned in an earlier era, and are being re-taught now, that if a "native" knows what's good for him, he will never complain, but keep his mouth shut, his smile fixed, and his manner respectful.

On what do you base this?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: I base this on the colonial history of the Arctic. I think anyone who has done a sociological or research analysis of the Northwest Territories or even some of the northern parts of our provinces would describe their way of life as a classical colonization set-up and refer to them as a subjugated people economically and socially, with a very small but entirely dominant white society in charge. Now, this was a colonialism usually of a very benevolent nature, but it was colonialism.

Now, in the case of Eskimo point some of the white people in charge were not so benevolent all the time and to this day we can see the results of this. On many occasions I have spoken with the people from Eskimo point and Baker lake in an endeavour to try to find out from them what they want; their last generation of subjugation has taught them not to say anything until they can define what the white person thinks. To give you an example of what I mean. if an Eskimo from Baker lake sees a white man walking down a path one hundred yards or two hundred yards away he does not know who he is other than that he is a white man and, all of a sudden this white man, who is well known in the area there, comes face to face with the Eskimo. The Eskimo does not know whether the white man is going to see him or even speak to him, and all he is going to say is "Ai; ai;". This is what, in fact, happens. This does not happen in the case of all Eskimos but this does happen historically in some parts of the north. It happens in Baker lake and Eskimo point.

Use is made of the word "native". I have known people to say: "Yes, he is a good native; he minds his business." Such things do go on in the north.

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): Have you found this attitude among members of the department of northern affairs and the department of Indian affairs? The department of Indian affairs are involved up there, are they not?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: Yes, in the Mackenzie valley.

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): And, in Rankin Inlet as well?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: Well, it is with great regret I must admit that this sort of attitude is being evidenced by some members of governmental departments in the north at the present time.

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): You do find that this happens in Rankin Inlet?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: This happens all over the north.

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): That is, by members of both the department of northern affairs and the department of Indian affairs?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: Well, it is sometime since I have had experience with the Indian affairs branch people. When I was in the Mackenzie valley 11 years ago this sort of thing did exist. If you would like an example, I could give you one. It was suggested that a field telephone should be linked to the homes of some Eskimo people so that if there is a fire or a sudden illness they could telephone to the nursing station or the R.C.M.P. and report the emergency. This suggestion was made to the government officer in charge of this one particular settlement and his response was: "I do not know whether or not we could do that; we do not have enough for ourselves, let alone them."

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): Has the Eskimo population in the eastern Arctic increased?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: Yes. Would you like the statistics? I do know the increase is tremendous, according to the department of health and welfare. There are some figures on page 2. I cannot pick them out immediately here; however, the birth rate in the north is much higher than elsewhere in Canada, about the same as in Venezuela and Mexico.

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): How many square miles in the north are required to support Eskimos on a hunting and fishing basis?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: First of all, may I say that according to statistics of the department of health and welfare, the rate of annual increase is nearly twice that of the rest of Canada, and the Eskimo birth rate is more than twice the all Canada figure.

The square mileage required to support any given Eskimo family depends on the availability of game which, of course, varies over the whole of the north. My home is Keewatin and it is the most deprived area in terms of natural resources of the whole of the Arctic. It is not entirely denuded of game but the caribou herds, upon which the native people depend, are limited. My home area at Rankin Inlet supported two families. They trap in and around Rankin Inlet and they just about made out; they had just enough game to get along.

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): Just two families?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: Yes.

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): How many people would be involved?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: Probably ten or twelve people, including the small children. Now, there are about 400 people living in Rankin Inlet and all of them are trying to live off the same amount of game. Very few of them have any work. Of course, the answer is the most demoralizing answer possible to them, relief.

When I was a social worker it broke my heart to see the proudest men I know finally have to come into my office and say: "Look, I have spent all my savings". They were referring to the mine; there used to be a nickel mine there at Rankin Inlet and it is closed now. They say: I have trapped and done my best; now, I have to ask for help to feed the children". You can see the pain, the real hurt that it gives a man of pride to have to come and ask for help. But, this is happening. It does not take much winter to rot the moral fibre of the best people when reduced to relief. As I say, there was a mine there but we did not do anything about the situation when the mine was closed down to take up the economical slack. There were many meetings and recommendations made, but nothing happened.

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): In view of your experience in the eastern Arctic I take it you found this situation exists pretty well throughout that area?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: Which situation?

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): This over-population situation exists at various spots throughout?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: No, I did not say that.

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): Is this the case?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: No, it is not. Traditionally, the Eskimos live in small kin-linked hunting groups scattered over a wide area of the coast or inland, and they take advantage of the game over a wide area. There is a tendency now, because of schools, medical facilities and so on, for the people to be drawn into these smaller areas or centres. This means you have a larger group of people hunting in a smaller area, as a result of which the game gets hunted out more rapidly, unless they can range farther. And, in some areas transportation facilities are better, as a result of which in some parts of the north the resources are still good.

One thing the department of northern affairs is doing is making economical surveys initially to get a real idea of what the potential is. It is easy to say: "These natives should go out and fish, the rivers are running with them." But, they never really know. As I say, the department of northern affairs is trying to find these things out. We need a lot more money to find out the facts before we say the north is pouring riches into western Canada or, the reverse, that the place is empty. We know the truth is somewhere in between. I think the difficulty is this: are there enough resources to support the population?

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): To support the increasing population?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: It would seem so, if there is provided more economical opportunity for the people to do so; that is, economical opportunity through the encouragement of industry in the north, through the better organization of hunting and fishing facilities and the harvesting of renewable resources. For example, I think that industry would be encouraged much more readily to go into the north if they knew the country was being administered by people who knew something about it and who lived in that part of the country and, therefore, were experienced. I think any industry or businessman from the south, if he was investigating the expenditure of capital in the north, would feel more secure if he knew that the administration of his establishment in the north was in the hands of experienced people.

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): Do you feel the department of northern affairs is doing everything possible now to ensure that the economic growth of this area will expand, or do you have any specific suggestions to make in that connection?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: To answer your question and at the same time swing our discussion back toward the legislation, if I may, I think I can answer the two at once. I really would not like this meeting to develop into an analysis of the department of northern affairs, to which I have a great loyalty and for which I have the greatest respect. Also, I would not like to feel that some of my executive colleagues, who are some of the finest people I know, are on trial in this committee. What I will say is that the department of northern affairs is doing its level best to bring economic opportunity into the country in every way it can.

I said in my brief that these are the most hard-working and dedicated people you will find in the Canadian civil service, and I mean that. But, these people are hamstrung and strapped in being realistic about their expenditure of federal funds in the north by the ever extended lines of communication and the fact the decision makers live in the south, as a result of which there is no body of recommendations from some representative body living in the north upon which to base their policies and developments. After all, we did not always have to have a department of northern affairs any more than there is a department of Manitoba affairs.

Mr. Dinsdale, would you like to have a department of Manitoba affairs?

Mr. DINSDALE: Not at this stage. We did have back in 1870.

The CHAIRMAN: I will rule out of order questions put by the witness to members of the committee.

Mr. WILLIAMSON: I am sorry. In answer to your question, I think the department is doing its level best but I think it could do better. I think the difficulty is that the whole effort of decision making and action of executive men is centred down here in Ottawa rather than in the north. I think these people have the best of intentions but they are too far away from the scene of action and are not living through it every day. In this way they are unable to understand what is going on. There is too much effort being put into summer activities. These are the halcyon days when you harvest as much as you can, but the economy of the Arctic is essentially a winter economy.

Mr. RHEAUME: You recommended in your brief that every part of the north be given an elected representative on a reconstituted council of the Northwest Territories. Do you feel it would be possible to draw constituency boundaries in the central Arctic, Keewatin and the eastern Arctic, which is not now represented. Do you feel it would be possible to devise constituencies that would be

practical, homogeneous and capable of being represented by man in each of these areas.

Mr. WILLIAMSON: Most emphatically; I see no problem there. I do see a problem in people being disfranchised, the way the legislation is drawn up now. This would have to be done in a way in which all constituencies are arranged proportionately by the geographic determinants and the population determinants. It can be done in the north; I see no problem.

Mr. DINSDALE: Mr. Chairman, I wanted to continue a line of questioning I had started. It seems to me that the residents of the eastern Arctic from the Keewatin district are the most politically literate of this part of the Canadian north. It was their agitation back in 1960-61 that made it possible to bring about the federal vote. Now, from your knowledge of this part of the north can you confirm that impression which I have, that this is a section of the eastern Arctic which is somewhat more interested in public affairs than perhaps are other areas in the eastern Arctic?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: I think that all parts of the eastern Arctic are interested in their political development. I think perhaps the people in the Baker lake and Rankin Inlet area, as well as other settlements in Keewatin, have the better opportunities, and this is probably because they have had excellent field officers, who have given them encouragement.

I would agree that my own neighbours and friends in Keewatin are certainly politically alert. But, as a card holding member of the Liberal party of the Northwest Territories I am in no position in this committee to judge their political acumen at this point, and I would not wish this discussion to develop into a political affair. But, they are interested in politics, are very informed, and they aim to become more so.

In my role as freelance broadcaster in the Eskimo language I assist in this. But, to follow up, we do agree the people in Keewatin are remarkably alert politically speaking, are interested and well informed. However, they are not very well informed about the division in the Northwest Territories, as I pointed out. But, they are anxious and are following what is going on. They want to know a lot more. Although technologically and culturally this same group of people have lived a very simple life they are among the most tremendous Eskimos in the world. They are the least sophisticated in their many ways of existence. How much more then, if given the opportunity, will they be people of greater sophistication in those parts of the Arctic. I have answered your question with a rhetorical ending.

Mr. DINSDALE: At the time the residents of the eastern Arctic were requesting the federal vote—this is back in 1959 and 1960—did they at the same time ask for a representative on the territorial council? Did this ever become an issue in that part of the eastern Arctic?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: Not to my knowledge. Not in the same way in which the request for a federal representative was documented. It did not seem to have the same thrust. It may have been putting the cart before the horse. I think the feeling of all the people was that they wanted some form of representation, some public voice, and I think that was because of the impetus in the human rights thinking in North America. This is really what affected it, when I think about this. People in the north have learned quite realistically that power is in Ottawa, and they learned that a member of parliament is in Ottawa, among the great of the land, among the real decision makers. Perhaps the first thing to really get some start in this process of self-government and this process of representation in their own affairs, was to get someone who would speak for them in Ottawa where the ultimate power is. Perhaps in other places people

would have preferred to say, "Let us get our own local government going first, and then talk about Ottawa". In fact, it works about the same.

Mr. DINSDALE: Would you say that granting the federal vote to the residents of the eastern Arctic has stimulated the present interest in representation in the territorial government?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: Very much so because they can see it working now. I think anyone in the whole of the world knows that you only learn democracy by practising it. There is no such thing as waiting until somebody is ready. You are ready to perform as a democratically oriented citizen of your nation the day you get the vote. When you are putting it to use and in action, then you are ready and are learning more about the whole process. You cannot learn democracy in a social vacuum.

Mr. DINSDALE: As I recall, some of the observations that were made back in 1960 concerning the federal vote were pretty similar to some of the observations you have made about the territorial vote question.

I have in front of me an article that appeared in *Maclean's* magazine on January 27, 1962, which was written by Mr. Don Peacock of the Canadian Press. It is Mr. Eastern speaking, who is manager of the north Rankin nickel mines who summed up the situation with reference to the failure to grant the federal vote in the following sentence. "There is a hidden part of Canada that is not much better off than the darkest part of Africa". That sentiment has been repeated in a certain sense in the observations you have made here this afternoon. Do you think there has been any improvement in this part of the eastern Arctic as a result of the granting of the federal vote?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: Emphatically, I do. Andy Eastern is quite a man. There is a man who is not any "do-gooder"; he is not a person who does the rushing around, emoting and pleading about the poor dark-faced natives. He is a businessman, a hard, tough, rock-hard miner. However, he had enough faith in the Eskimo people to start and run and successfully keep going a nickel mine in the Arctic. If a person who really financially and economically comes from Missouri, who has not got any political bones to pick here, who is just out to make cash from his mining company or in Bloor street, wherever they hang out in Toronto, if such a man has faith in the Eskimos, I think the rest of us should, too. The whole of the Northwest Territories is showing interest in these Rankin Inlet people who successfully operated a mine. They are going to work in Yellowknife. Four men went there over three months ago. They did so well that other mining companies are now asking for Rankin Inlet miners, and they are going to do all right. If a hard, cold businessman has this much faith in the Eskimo, I think the legislators of the nation and the government should show equal faith.

Mr. DINSDALE: The outbreak of tuberculosis at Eskimo Point, and also the related observations you made concerning the high infant mortality rate indicate that last year it was higher than ever before. Could that possibly have resulted from the fact that better statistics are kept than had been kept previously?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: I was referring to the report on health conditions in the Northwest Territories made by the northern health services. I did say that according to this report infant mortality rates are high. "Higher than ever before", as you indicate, is something in respect of which we honestly are not able to answer; but the fact that they are higher than the year before and the year before that is bad enough. We can, of course, use statistics in any way we like. Benjamin Disraeli said there were such things as lies and damned lies in statistics; but there are lives and damned lives in Eskimos.

Mr. DINSDALE: Mr. Chairman, the witness is familiar with Mr. Farley Mowat's book "People of the Deer" in which he refers to people actually starving to death in this part of the Canadian north some ten years ago. Do those conditions prevail today?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: No, Mr. Chairman; that situation does not prevail, but there still are people who are more hungry than any Canadian should be who is living in the Canadian Arctic.

Mr. DINSDALE: So you would agree there has been an improvement, and you would also say, I would conclude, that if these people are given a greater degree of self-determination, both at the territorial level as well as the federal level, this would make a great contribution to the development of the Canadian north?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: Not only a great contribution to the development of the Canadian north, but a great contribution to the enrichment of our whole Canadian confederation. The Eskimo people can offer to the whole of the north American continent an integrated and united culture of great richness and great dynamism, and to see this dissipated by misunderstanding and lack of wholeheartedness would be one of the greatest tragedies of history in North America in this century.

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): I have two more questions, Mr. Chairman. From what you have said up to now, I take it you feel an accentuated program, federally sponsored, of economic development is necessary in the eastern Arctic if we are going to provide jobs to, for instance, the people in Rankin Inlet, in order to take them off the welfare lists, and that we should do this also in other areas in the eastern Arctic where similar conditions exist. I take it you feel this is necessary to start with and you would like to see the federal government spend more money to stimulate the economy in that area?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: I would like to see funds expended more realistically in the north for economic development. I accept the reality that much of this, as is the case in respect of other provinces in Canada, will have to come from the federal coffers.

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): My reasoning in my approach to the final question is that in the western Arctic, according to earlier testimony, I have received the impression there is enough prime industry already established and that perhaps this type of program is not as necessary in the western Arctic as in the eastern Arctic, and that if a rapidly increased federal program for the eastern Arctic is necessary it could be more efficiently carried out by having the division as outlined in this legislation, and by having this direct intervention by Ottawa in the eastern region, even though the western region will not require this direct intervention by Ottawa. Are you following me?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: That is a marvelous question. I will try and thread my way back through these points and I trust the hon. member will help me along, if need be.

I believe that federal investment in the whole of the Northwest Territories is necessary to help along the excellent enterprise of the pioneers in the Mackenzie basin; to generally enrich the western Arctic will also help the whole of the Northwest Territories, if they remain united.

I would like to see this investment of federal funds program not federally organized or sponsored; in other words not an Ottawa organized and sponsored program, but a federally money sponsored organized plan which would be developed by the people who know the country themselves and are committed to it because they live there. Now, integrating this with the western side of

the Northwest Territories I think would be a practical scheme. Dividing it I think would cause losses. I am quite sure the geological survey of Canada and the independent mining companies, as well as the independent oil exploration people already have established that in the eastern Arctic the mineral riches are enormous, really tremendous. And, I know the human riches can meet any potential the mineral riches will offer us. But, to split the north in half would actually, I think, not accomplish too much.

We may have a situation a few years from now where the people in the western Arctic would look enviously at the eastern side, if they were split. At this point there seems to be more economic development over a longer period in the west. As I pointed out, progress goes along very rapidly; it expands as well as accelerates. I think, given the economical opportunity, given a sense of confidence which industry and business can win from knowing this administration is in the north and in the hands of the northerners, the eastern part of the Northwest Territories will very rapidly catch up with the economical progress of the west.

I do not think gradualism is any more justified. I think we might find ourselves running and skipping too fast to catch up. We might find that progress in the eastern Arctic has gone ahead of the legislators' power to prepare for progress, and I think it is the responsibility of legislators, who should have a great sense of historicity in everything they do, to see far enough ahead so that the legislation will meet the demands when they come.

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): Assume there was an expanded federally sponsored economical development program for the eastern Arctic, do you feel this could be best carried out directly from Ottawa, as would occur if present legislation goes through dividing the territories, or do you feel that an expanding federal program could be better carried out through the Mackenzie river area capital for the whole of the northwest?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: Mr. Chairman, any northerner from either side predictably is an experienced northerner and will have more understanding of all the implications of economic and human development than any southerner, whether the capital is in Yellowknife, Inuvik, Fort Smith or Rankin Inlet, which is a very good place, being very central.

Perhaps I could pick up the member on just one point, Mr. Chairman, in respect of a federally sponsored program for economic development. I should like to draw the attention of the committee to an excellent suggestion, in my opinion, made by a very competent Canadian economist, Professor Rea of the University of Saskatchewan. He suggested that the north will predictably never really develop as rapidly as it could by the efforts of either the government alone, or by individual members of private enterprise. However, he suggests there should be established, either by government sponsorship or private sponsorship a development corporation. Perhaps I may take up the time of the committee for a moment and refer to this very interesting article which was on "Personally Speaking" of the C.B.C.

Professor Rea says:

But simply being, or becoming, large is not the whole answer to the problems confronting individual firms operating in the north. Even when they are large enough to provide their own transportation and other essential facilities I think that more often than not they are unwilling to do so.

This is so because one firm will make a big investment and firms following will profit from it. He suggests, in the same way as in respect of the Cameroons Development Corporation and other development corporations under the British and French influence in Africa, a development corporation of the broader

spectrum of industry and investment would be the way to economically develop the north. This seems to me to be a very practical and sensible idea. It is already working in other undeveloped territories, and we have an undeveloped territory in the north.

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): Do you know whether the department of northern affairs has shown any interest in respect of this proposal?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: I am afraid I do not know, but it very probably has because the department of northern affairs is composed of a very alert group of people.

Mr. DINSDALE: In respect of this matter of economic development, Mr. Chairman, while it is not specifically related to the bills, I would like to direct a question to the witness if I may. How does the witness regard the activities of the Eskimo co-operatives? Do you feel that they have a large role to play in northern economic development? These co-operatives are expanding rapidly. Do you feel that decentralization in this area, if possible, would also assist economic development?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: Mr. Chairman, I am very glad Mr. Dinsdale asked that question because I was wondering how I could sort of plug this into the record on my own.

I believe deeply in the tremendous importance of the development of co-operatives in the Northwest Territories. This is one of the greatest accomplishments of the department of northern affairs; the development of co-operatives across the whole of the north. Their part in the economic development in the Canadian Arctic is of tremendous significance because it is, of course, a process of social development and self-determination, and that is what we are after; people running their own economic affairs.

There are various types of co-operatives, and one form of a co-operative which I feel is not really a good thing yet, because it is somewhat premature, is the retail store co-operatives of which there are now a few in the north. There are some which have done a good service, for example at Resolute bay, Craig Harbour and Grise Fiord, where there is no other form of store, and where there is no competition from private enterprise under a monolithic government. However, in other places, where this beneficial service is not really necessary because a store already exists, I feel this is a waste of Eskimo investment; sinking it all, first of all, into running the store. There is a logical progression for this type of thing. First of all I think the Eskimo should have the opportunity and perhaps encouragement to develop producer co-operatives using their own skills and traditional knowledge, and I refer to producer co-operatives in respect of their handicrafts, their seal skins, their trapping and others. One of the most famous co-operatives I suspect in the world started in respect of handicrafts, and I refer to the west Baffin Island Co-operative. This was stimulated by the Department of Northern Affairs. It is now in the hands of the Eskimos themselves. After a co-op—a producer co-op, not a consumer co-op—has successfully built up capital over a decade or so and finds it has a surplus capital, then maybe that is the time when they could consider putting their capital into a retail store. But to start a retail store with which one Eskimo or a small group of Eskimos has something to do, I think is putting the cart before the horse.

In summary, the answer to your question, I believe very strongly—is and I am very happy to see the development of co-operatives in the north—that producer co-ops should precede by some time retail store co-operatives. We want more co-operatives, many more.

Mr. SIMPSON: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Williamson has given us an outline of certain situations at the present time at Rankin Inlet and Eskimo point. I

wonder, Mr. Williamson, if you would be in a position to tell us briefly your opinion of the economic situation at some of the other centres in the eastern Arctic, places such as Baker lake, Coral harbour, Cape Dorset, Resolute bay or any places you would care to mention. I am wondering how they would differ in any respect from the two you mentioned at Rankin and Eskimo point.

MR. WILLIAMSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I mentioned Eskimo point and Rankin Inlet because they are two of the more depressed areas of the most depressed part of the Arctic—Keewatin as a whole. Baker lake is another place in Keewatin which is depressed. It was a great centre for trapping in the past and the Eskimos lived very well off the caribou herds. These have declined. There is now a very large population which does not have the opportunity to support itself completely off the local resources because the local resources are declining and the population is increasing. In the same district of Keewatin there is Southampton island, which I refer to as the garden of the Arctic. It is at the mouth of Hudson bay. There the resources are considerable and the population is quite small. Sealing is excellent and the seal fur prices at this moment are higher than they have ever been, at least for a very long time. Walrus hunting on the south coast of Southampton island and Duke of York bay on the north side of Southampton island is good. Walrus is a very important element in Eskimo economy. If you have good walrus meat in the summer, you have meat for the dogs all winter and you can then get more trap lines, therefore more fur and therefore more support. There is a tremendous bird population on Southampton island in the summer—blue geese, waveys, eider duck. Southampton island is one of the most famous resources for polar bear in the whole of the Arctic. Resolute bay is even better. There is a very rich area there. Resolute bay is only one part of the Arctic, and there is an enormous area north of that. Just look at the map. You will see Melville island, Devon island and Ellesmere island. There is a gentleman here now who has spent some time on Devon island. This post is now abandoned. Many of these high Arctic areas we know have tremendous game resources which have not been tapped; they have not been tapped for 3,000 or 4,000 years in some cases. Also in this part of the Arctic not far from Resolute bay, we know there are tremendous oil resources, so great that people are getting quite excited about the oil resources of the eastern Arctic.

THE CHAIRMAN: Possibly the chair could intervene at this point for two purposes. I realize there is much interest in discussing the economic situation in the north, but the testimony I would like the members to try to entertain is the type of government which possibly in the long run would do something about the economics. I do not think it is the duty of the committee to hear the economics of the north and what capital is required and what type of industry is promoted. I think the Chairman has the duty of making sure that we primarily discuss the type of government that is proper for the Northwest Territories.

Possibly the committee would permit me at this point to ask what you wish to do this evening. If we could know if you wish to sit tonight it would be helpful to the clerk who has to send out the notices.

MR. SIMPSON: Mr. Chairman, just before we take this minute to decide whether we sit tonight or not, I would like to say, in respect of the question I just asked and the explanation, that I had another question on the same line and I intended to preface it with the remark that some may feel we are getting away from the direct subject of whether these two bills are not in the best interests of the people in the north, but throughout the hearings, or the ones I have attended, when we have discussed these matters with people from the western part of the territories questions have been put to them in many cases on whether or not they thought the western part of the territories might not develop more quickly if it was split and not held back by the east. I am

trying to decide what the economic situation is in some of these places that I have not had the opportunity of getting to from the west. Therefore I feel that we must hear something along this line to be able to make up our minds.

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): I agree with the member from Churchill.

The CHAIRMAN: Shall we take a minute to see how we get on with our work? Is it agreeable that we sit tonight at eight o'clock? Very well. You may send out the notices for eight o'clock tonight. Now, you may proceed, Mr. Simpson.

Mr. SIMPSON: I felt the witness may have wanted to continue with this theme.

The CHAIRMAN: You said you had one more question along economic lines.

Mr. SIMPSON: Yes, but I do not think the witness has finished giving his economic report.

The CHAIRMAN: He had moved over the northland, and I was trying to get the debate more in line with the subject matter of the bills.

Mr. WILLIAMSON: I appreciate the discipline of the Chair in limiting my speaking on the potentialities of the north, because I could talk about it all night. I believe in it so much. And this is an historic opportunity for me to speak my belief before the legislators of the nation. However, I shall try to be brief.

We have talked about Keewatin, and we have said that the game resources are limited. But we do not know enough about them. There could be more in that respect than we believe. We have talked about the northwest of Baffin islands and of the Queen Elizabeth archipelago. We heard at a seminar in Montreal last fall an expert from the oil industry say that it would be no more expensive to equip and maintain a submarine tanker fleet with which to bring oil out of the eastern Arctic than it would be to build and maintain a pipe line in Alberta. That is an interesting fact. This was said by an oil expert.

Baffin island is an excellent hunting area, and it is good for whale and seal hunting. Another valuable asset of this country is its fantastic potential in handicraft.

Keewatin, we admit, is economically the poorest in the case of game resources which are considerably limited, but it has tremendous economic potential. In Keewatin the first mine in the Arctic was established. I know from the talk that goes on in mining circles that there are other really serious potentials in Keewatin. There is substantial exploration going on for gold and nickel in Keewatin at this moment. There are considerable nickel resources not very far away from Eskimo point. And there are several known gold reserves. The possibilities of their being exploited are quite real. There is gold at Chantney inlet, and there are considerable mineral resources in Keewatin. When you take the whole of the north, with its game, and its mineral resources in base metals and precious metals, you will find there are people there capable of developing those potentials.

Mr. SIMPSON: I have one more question. I think that possibly we are getting a little away from our order of reference in connection with these two bills.

The CHAIRMAN: Could the witness not relate these economic potentials to the two bills and the type of government that would properly provide advancement for them? If he would do so, it would be helpful to the committee, because after we have heard other evidence, over a long period of time, we might be in a position to report to the house that they should pass another piece of legislation which is different from that which we have here. We are here to study the good and the bad. Could the witness not relate his remarks to this new type of government, because that is what would be of assistance to the committee.

In what way do you link the possibility of the northwest with the legislation that we are studying?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: I will be pleased to answer this. As I said earlier, I think the confidence of the capitalists and businessmen wishing to invest their money in the north would be greater if they felt the administration of the north and the legislative decisions concerning the north were being made by people who are experienced in the north, who belong there and are committed there. Therefore, I think the establishment of greater self-government in the north would stimulate the economy. This is why I started off by speaking strongly in favour of the intent of these bills and I am simply saying they need to be beefed up a little to give more self-government.

I would like to speak in praise and gratitude to the people who created this legislature, and just say to them "let us be a little more wholehearted".

The CHAIRMAN: What do you mean by the words, "a little bit more"?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: More self-representation, more elected representatives on the territorial council of the northern people. This is the way in which I would suggest the legislation be amended.

Mr. DINSDALE: On that point too I would presume the witness would be strongly in favour of an entirely elected council.

Mr. WILLIAMSON: Emphatically so.

Mr. DINSDALE: Would that mean the exclusion of all the appointed members operating in the north?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: I do not like to use a negative term here, Mr. Chairman. Exclusion means something negative. I would say the inclusion of the expertise and the dedication and interest of the appointed members as advisers. This House of Commons has many advisers upon which they draw to make their decisions, but the advisers are not the decision makers themselves. I would therefore suggest, Mr. Chairman, that the decision makers, the members of the council themselves, should all be elected northerners drawing upon the advice of the economists, the lawyers, the constitutionalists and all the other very fine people who can help in our northern government.

Mr. DINSDALE: I would imagine Mr. Williamson is aware that the appointed representatives of the Northwest Territories council were formerly the deputy heads of the departments working in the north, so that the situation that prevailed in the past three years was a further step forward in getting away from centralized control in that the appointed members were not connected with the government as such. Would the witness feel that this is a desirable change, a move in the right direction, and would this situation change his attitude towards the appointed members?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: Certainly, Mr. Chairman. The history of the territorial council has shown excellent progressiveness in terms of a gradual augmentation of the elected representatives, and this intent still remains inherent in the legislation. However, I feel that we are ready in the north now for our form of government to democratically reflect the form of government which exists in the rest of our nation. Yes, I do agree, Mr. Chairman, that there has been good progress in the evolution of the territorial council. All I am asking is that this progress be stepped up. I am terribly conscious of the nations of the rest of the world observing as we Canadians strike a posture of democracy and progressiveness. I think they are watching us closely to see what we do with our own underdeveloped territory. I think we can put forward a good example and show good will by giving complete self-government to the people who are in the north without losing any of the expert advice available to us.

Mr. SIMPSON: I feel the committee still has these two bills in front of it, and that it is our obligation to try to assess the situation. If we are not

going to be allowed to discuss economic situations in the east and the west, I can put my question in this way in order to make it relevant to what is before us. Can the witness say, if these two bills are going to be approved by parliament, whether he would feel there is any justification, or justification to any extent, in setting the border line between east and west where it has been planned to place it?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: Mr. Chairman, I can only repeat what I have said before; that is, that division of the Northwest Territories should be something decided upon by the people most directly and permanently affected. If division is necessary, I would like the northern people to be consulted. It may be that we would find, after much discussion and evaluation of the whole thing, that division is desirable. Personally, at the moment I doubt it as do many of my friends and neighbours in the north. We are awful individualists; we make up our own minds; we are not influenced by anybody else. I am not at all influenced intellectually or politically by anybody else on this matter in the north. Other northerners are equally independent. If there is any unanimity in their total opinion, this is not collusion; it is just that we all have the same northern purview of this problem. So, I would say to the member, let division, if it is necessary, come out of the deliberations of the elected members of a territorial council; let the present legislation or the existing assented legislation be amended first to create constituencies in the eastern Arctic—and I would suggest three; and let these people, in discussion with their other elected representatives, decide the case in respect of whether or not division is necessary.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions for Mr. Williamson?

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: Very well, the committee is adjourned until eight o'clock.

—The committee adjourned until 8 p.m.

EVENING SITTING

MONDAY, December 16, 1963

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, we have a quorum.

Mr. Williamson is still at the disposal of the committee and I think Mr. Simpson had some further questions. I believe Mr. Watson indicated he would have some questions.

Mr. SIMPSON: I have no further questions at the present time, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. TURNER: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if I understood Mr. Williamson's argument correctly. I understood him to say that there had been in the eastern Arctic at any rate, a certain lack of information or understanding about proposed legislation. An earlier witness before this committee who had his reservations about these two bills stated that he was not against the bills in principle, but so far as he was concerned the case had not been proven. Would the witness be of that mind?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: Yes. This seems to be part of the complaint of many of the northerners who have had any opportunity to consider this. So far the people who have suggested and attempted to implement this legislation have not satisfied the people who live in the north sufficiently that this is the best possible move.

I would like to state now for the clarification of the committee that nothing I have read or heard in discussions in the north or here in Ottawa, in this

committee, in the corridors, or in the bathrooms, or in any other part of my experience so far in discussions has so far changed my feeling about this legislation. I have not been sufficiently convinced. Unequivocally I want to say I believe that the best interests of the north will be served by retaining the territories as a unit, united in the confederation, with a totally elected council and a resident commissioner. I would hope that by this statement I have made my own stand quite clear. Nothing I have heard so far has convinced me to the contrary.

Mr. TURNER: If I may with the permission of the Chairman direct my questions directly to Mr. Williamson I would ask Mr. Williamson this. You say nothing you have heard so far—that would not mean necessarily that you have a closed mind and it is conceivable that there might be administrative, economic and even sociological reasons that could justify the division, but so far to your mind the case has not been made?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman, and I would hope that nobody here, with this great historic responsibility, will in all honesty approach this matter with a closed mind if we sincerely have the wellbeing of our nation at heart. I certainly would not say that I have a closed mind on the subject.

Mr. TURNER: So it is conceivable that if sufficient administrative proof or economic proof were adduced to your satisfaction, let us say, your mind is still open to review and open to change?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: Administrative proof and economic proof, but there is another form of proof I would require—

Mr. TURNER: Sociological proof?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: Sociological proof, and also the proof of the body of represented opinion of people in the area directly affected, in other words, in the eastern part of the Northwest Territories. This too I would feel is only right and democratic. Beyond all the other proofs, we have to have the democratic proof of the experienced and committed understanding and feeling of the people who live in the north.

Mr. TURNER: Just as you have said that you have not a closed mind, I would assume that people who live in the eastern part of the Arctic would not have a closed mind either, and if the proof were sufficient administratively, economically and sociologically, they might be convinced, would you not say, Mr. Williamson?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: They might, but I would say there has been a great deal of opportunity so far for this proof to be adduced, for this proof to be presented, for the facts to be collected, for the inquiries to be made, for a very thorough body of information to have been collected from the people to justify this move. Even then they still should have an elective say in a constitutional move of this nature, and they have not had it. So, unequivocally, I say I am against the form of this legislation at this time, that I believe we should have one united Northwest Territories with a fully elective council. I have faith in the members of the population of the Northwest Territories to serve adequately and intelligently on a fully elective council. I think it would be in the hands of the elected representatives of the Northwest Territories to examine all the information which could be collected with the assistance of the administration, of the universities, and of any other people who are concerned, and then the decision should be in their hands.

Mr. TURNER: What type of newspaper is there in Keewatin?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: I would very much like to see a newspaper published in the Keewatin district for the Keewatin district, but there is not one at the time. At the moment there is an excellent newspaper called the *Northlander* published in northern Manitoba, in Thompson and Churchill, which is circulat-

ing in Keewatin and is carrying a great deal of news about Keewatin. The *Northlander* is at this point serving as a newspaper for the Keewatin district and it is a very fine service.

Mr. TURNER: How long has this been carrying Keewatin news?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: A year or so. A dream of mine is to publish an Eskimo language newspaper in our part of the north.

Mr. TURNER: Is there any locally originated broadcast in Keewatin?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: Yes; I originate two. Every week from the radio station which serves the Keewatin district there are two regular broadcasts, a news and commentary in English about the region and its affairs and the affairs of the north, and one in Eskimo. In addition to this, again originating from the Keewatin area, there is an Eskimo language broadcast which is beamed on the shortwave all over the north including the district of Keewatin. This again originates in the district of Keewatin.

Mr. TURNER: Have these bills been discussed on those two programs?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: Yes, they have been discussed in so far as there has been enough information to discuss. I should probably say there has been more discussion about the lack of information.

Mr. TURNER: Are you the broadcaster in both these programs?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: Yes. I have felt it my responsibility as a person with access to the media, in the default of any other person willing to inform the northern population, to do my part in explaining quite objectively as much as is known in the north at this point about these bills and about their implications and about our hopes.

Mr. TURNER: Did you approach the Northwest Territories council about this legislation when the Northwest Territories council was discussing it?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: No, not the Northwest Territories council.

Mr. TURNER: You did not appear to make any protest in the Northwest Territories council?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: No.

Mr. RHEAUME: Were you a civil servant at the time?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: Yes.

Mr. RHEAUME: Would this in any way have affected your decision not to appear before the territorial council and state your views directly.

Mr. WILLIAMSON: Mr. Chairman, I think both the last questioner and all the members here know about the rules and regulations of any civil servant who must not in any way—by gesture, by the way in which he conducts himself and certainly not through the public media—demonstrate his opinions about political developments or any thing else. At the time when the territorial council was meeting, I was a civil servant and of course I had my opinions but, like a good civil servant, I kept them to myself.

Mr. TURNER: When did you leave the civil service, Mr. Williamson?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: Last April. For clarification, Mr. Chairman, may we discuss how my personal history affects this legislation?

Mr. TURNER: I did not bring up your personal history. Mr. Rheaume asked you if you were a civil servant.

Mr. RHEAUME: I just wanted to help Mr. Turner to understand.

The CHAIRMAN: Does the witness mean that he was the one who put it on foot?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: The questioning seemed to be turning away from the two bills to my personal history, and I was wondering if it was really germane to our discussion at this point.

The CHAIRMAN: I believe the questioning arises from the lack of information, and the point you made that in your position you were unable to approach the Northwest Territories council. Previously, you said, you could either inform or disagree with the bill since you were a civil servant, and the questioning that went on tried to pinpoint at what time you had been deprived or relieved of the position in which you could not do this. I presume that is why the question was asked.

When did you abandon being a civil servant?

Mr. KORCHINSKI: In what year did you move into the territories?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: My last move into the territories was in the spring of 1960.

Mr. KORCHINSKI: Was there a previous move?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: Over the last eleven years I have lived and worked in a number of parts of the Northwest Territories.

Mr. KORCHINSKI: Prior to that time, when did you first move into the territories?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: In the early spring of 1952.

Mr. KORCHINSKI: Prior to that where did you reside?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: I resided for a couple of months in Ottawa, having arrived in this country on January 4, 1952. I am a Canadian who was born in England and chose to become a Canadian.

Mr. KORCHINSKI: Have you had any experience in residing in what might be termed the three prairie provinces?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: No, Mr. Chairman, I have not resided in the three prairie provinces. My wife is a native of Saskatchewan and I have spent short periods of time visiting my family in Saskatchewan.

Mr. KORCHINSKI: Have you ever heard of any expressions to the effect that the prairie provinces, that is the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, might have been better served by amalgamation, by uniting in a common effort for the simple purpose of economically serving the people of that particular area? I am a resident of Saskatchewan and I have often heard it expressed that in certain areas we might have been better served if we had united. Whether this is true or not is a question which should be resolved at another time. I am wondering whether, if in similar fashion the areas of the Northwest Territories were to exclude an area which might not be economically productive at the moment, you think they may eventually find themselves in a position in which they will not progress as rapidly as the rest of Canada.

It seems to me that, for example in areas like Alberta which might be oil-rich and areas like the north of Saskatchewan and Manitoba, which might be minerally rich, and areas like southern Saskatchewan and southern Manitoba which might be rich in the production of grain, we might mutually benefit each other if we had united or combined together 50 years ago instead of separating into provinces. Perhaps it might have been better for the whole of Canada if these provinces had presented a common front. I do not necessarily agree with some of the expressions one hears to this effect, but do you not think this might be as true of the areas of the north at the moment as of the prairies?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: Yes, I think the questioner is making a very good case for combining the riches of an area, and I think this would very well apply to the Northwest Territories. If the resources of the prairies were divided off and split up for convenience, there would be a definite loss. I think we can learn from this by applying the same principles to the Northwest Territories.

Mr. KORCHINSKI: Is it your opinion that we have insufficient information on the western part of the territories or is it your opinion that against that

area we might consider the eastern part? I refer to the area commonly known as Nunassiat. Are we not perhaps in a position in which we are not too familiar with the potential of that area and that therefore we are unable to give a clear judgment of what is proper for that area?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: Mr. Chairman, I believe this is true. A great deal more needs to be known now although we have some very strong indications of the economic potential of the whole of the Northwest Territories in terms of the fullest and most efficient utilization of all the resources, mineral, human and renewable, and by renewable I mean game.

A great deal more needs to be known, and federal funds could be expended very, very satisfactorily in doing a great deal more basic research. I think in that way we could conduct our future administration with a great deal more certainty.

Mr. KORCHINSKI: Would the witness care to indicate what he might consider the size of the population should be? I do not think it is really that important, but the point is to what extent should it develop and continue before that area should be in a position to decide how we could split it, or how we should govern that area, in a better way than we do it at the moment?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: I think in terms of deciding this, if it is a matter of democratically governing it efficiently, the population of the Northwest Territories is already big enough; there are enough intelligent people there, with enough commitments to the country, that they are capable now of exercising a greater degree of self-government. As to the total number of people that that country should sustain, I do not have sufficient economic information to answer thoroughly, but the possibilities are endless.

Mr. KORCHINSKI: I do not think I intended to indicate that there should be a certain number of people in the area before they should govern themselves entirely. What I wanted to bring out was what development do you feel is essential before we can perhaps have a break from what our normal relations are with the territories? Should we have more development in terms of resources, or more development in terms of population, or should we just have perhaps one area being more active than another area, to indicate that it needs developing; the other will have to wait. In your opinion what is the criterion which will govern the split of the area or cause division?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: I think the criterion which should decide this legislation is the same criterion that affects any other democratic part of the free world; and that is the existence of people of voting age and maturity who have a right to decide their own affairs, in their own local area. In other words, the time for that is now. As to the normal relationship between one part of the country and another, much of the government of the north at the moment is directed by civil servants at Ottawa. These are very fine people, but they are not northerners, therefore they do not have the essential local knowledge. I do not think this is normal. I think it is abnormal. I think it is undemocratic, and it is time that we changed.

Mr. KORCHINSKI: Is it the opinion of the people of the north that perhaps they are almost—well, I may search for words at the moment—living in a world that is different from the rest of Canada, or perhaps that this part of Canada does not quite understand the feeling of that part of the north, and of what the Northwest Territories comprise?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: I think there are answers to a two-part question. The Northwest Territories and the population there are significantly different only in the degree of their superior intelligence to any other average part of Canada. I am speaking about the Eskimo people. I referred to them in my brief this afternoon. I am not debating their readiness to participate more fully. I think

the Northwest Territories are normal in so far as they compare with the rest of Canada, and that we are more and more becoming part of the total Canadian community. I am a perfectly normal Canadian who happens to live in the Northwest Territories. There are lots of people like me. I do not think that we should regard the Northwest Territories as some other planet. I do not think we should expect the people, when they come down here, to put on some sort of show for the entertainment of the local people, such as to wear fancy northern garb which is perfectly good in the north, but not sensible down here. I do not think we should be regarded as performing bears for the south. We do not expect southern people, when they come north, to expect the living and clothing conditions of Toronto. We actually have analogous living conditions in many ways. But I would agree with the second part of the question, or the inference in the second part of the question, that the south is inadequately informed about the north, about its people, and about its needs. That is perfectly true.

I would like the record of this committee to contain words of the most strenuous praise for the public relation efforts of the department of northern affairs, who more than anyone else have made the rest of the nation and the world conscious of the north and its people, of its needs and its potentials.

If we had not had this brilliant public relations work performed by the executive of the department of northern affairs, the Canadian taxpayer would not have so willingly supported this great drive towards development in the north. But there is still a lot more to be done, and it is the responsibility of the Canadian citizen in the south to seek to inform himself.

In reference to another point earlier about communications, communications are improving there considerably, so there is no reason why lots of Canadians should not go north to find out for themselves, rather than keep on going to Florida.

MR. KORCHINSKI: I just want to make this point. If you look at the witness, you will notice that he wears a beard. I think this is symbolic of the north. If you noticed some of the other witnesses who came before us, I think you will have noticed that they appeared in the garb of the north. I think it is a great thing for the witnesses to come, and be able to represent that particular area of the north that is so much different. I think it is typical of the Canadian north. But leaving to one side their garb and their beards, I think the witnesses have given us in as clear a manner as they could an indication that their intelligence is far superior to that of some other people whom perhaps we may have encountered in other areas. But be that as it may, I think whatever we can bring out is significant of the way the north has felt. Perhaps they want to encompass themselves into one complete area. Perhaps they feel that it would be better for them to live in a separated area. Do they feel—to put it clearly—that they are still not ready for separation from dominance by Ottawa?

MR. RHEAUME: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, could the hon. member from Mackenzie have time made available to him to read Mr. Williamson's brief which he presented today, and which covers all these points?

MR. WILLIAMSON: I can only repeat myself. I do not feel it is necessary, unless the committee, or someone else requires me, to defend my personal likes.

THE CHAIRMAN: It is true that Mr. Williamson presented a lengthy brief, which contains most of his opinions outside of further explanations he has given in response to questions. This has gone on since, roughly, I believe it was, four o'clock this afternoon. I am sure that the hon. member for Mackenzie will appreciate that the committee is now more or less hearing a review of a number of broad suggestions and matters of principle concerning problems in

the north. The committee is now hearing all this for a second time. So I think you will appreciate—not having been able to be here this afternoon—that possibly we may be a bit confusing to the witness in asking him to sort of repeat in some respects.

Mr. KORCHINSKI: If this happens to be repetition, I shall stop my questioning.

Mr. WILLIAMSON: I have reiterated my belief about the necessity for a united Northwest Territories with a fully elected council at this point. I hope I have made it clear. I would like to assure the member for Mackenzie that the north can enrich the Canadian community with more than its whiskers.

The CHAIRMAN: That I believe. I have seen more whiskers in Toronto than I have on the witnesses who have appeared before us. Are there any further questions?

Mr. ALKENBRACK: Do you have any more copies of your brief? I was absent when it was distributed. I do not want to take anyone else's.

The CHAIRMAN: I have not, for sure. Has any member more than one copy?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: I believe 35 copies were made available.

Mr. RHEAUME: I think the spectators must have taken them off.

The CHAIRMAN: Would the hon. members speak to me if they wish a copy of the brief? I am ready to lend my own, provided whoever borrows it will return it in the near future.

Mr. KORCHINSKI: All of this will be printed in our reports, will it not?

The CHAIRMAN: Oh, yes.

Mr. TURNER: May I go on with my line of questioning to the witness?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes.

Mr. TURNER: Before you started to broadcast, Mr. Williamson, was there any local originating program in the Keewatin area?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: No. Before I started to broadcast there was no locally originated program reaching the north. There were, and there has been for some years, an Eskimo program, which collected its material from all over the north including Keewatin, beamed to all the north from the northern service by shortwave. That program did include material from Keewatin, as it did from other parts of the north. This was a very fine program which was done by the northern service for information, and was handled by a young woman named Ann Padula, who did a very fine job.

Mr. TURNER: You started to broadcast when you left the civil service?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: That is right.

Mr. TURNER: So you started in April of last year?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: Yes, I think so.

Mr. TURNER: If I understood your answers correctly, there is only one local newspaper in the Keewatin area, and it is published in Manitoba with certain news available to the people of Keewatin.

Mr. WILLIAMSON: That is right.

Mr. TURNER: And there is your program as well?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: Yes.

Mr. TURNER: Before that there was no opportunity in terms of general communication for the department of northern affairs to get their point of view on this administration across to the people of Keewatin?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: I would not agree with you.

Mr. TURNER: If there was no local originating paper, and only one program in the last year and a half, how could it be otherwise?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: I think that the department of northern affairs has shown itself to be unique and outstanding in being able to gain interest through mass media in the south via radio and magazines, and that these do circulate in the north as well. But it has appeared to be very ineffectual in its opportunities having regard to the north. For example, the radio could have been used and magazines could have been used, and also the members of the joint administrative staff in the north as well—they could have informed and could have been informed, themselves, about these developments and could have passed this on. As I suggested in my brief, the excellent services of the Eskimo translators of the department of northern affairs could have been put to use in publishing pamphlets, in publishing articles in the Eskimo language, and an Eskimo magazine, and the area administrators and the social workers and other people could have informed the Eskimo people by meetings, by discussion, by use of local circulars, and by other members of the staff who could have been informed themselves, as I pointed out in my brief, and by the departmental staff in the north themselves.

Mr. TURNER: You told us that while you were a civil servant, you could not express an opinion on the subject.

Mr. WILLIAMSON: That is right.

Mr. TURNER: Would not the same apply to any other civil servants?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: Not at all. We are talking about opinions on the one hand and information on the other. My suggestion that straightforward, unslanted, completely objective information is being disseminated by the government in many ways all over the country, and in fact all over the world all the time. The information services of this government are excellent, and I think they should be put to use in the north as well.

Mr. TURNER: Without admitting for the moment that there was not sufficient information, you mention department of northern affairs officers. If they had attempted to disseminate this information, would you not as a resident northerner have interpreted this as being civil service propaganda?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: Not at all. I would like to say that I personally have great faith in the integrity of the employees of the department of northern affairs living in the north. When they are making an honest job of disseminating information, they should be understood. We are not as accustomed in the north to impute motives to every speech made as you are down in this house. We take people's honest attempts at disseminating information as being honest. The individual decides all the time on what is propaganda, and he is usually able to identify it to some extent as compared to straight information.

Mr. TURNER: In terms of your efforts since April 1962, to bring these things about, what have you done?

Mr. RHEAUME: I think it was April 1963.

Mr. WILLIAMSON: Yes, April 1963.

Mr. TURNER: What have you done in terms of informing them about these bills since April 1963?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: In so far as I have had any occasion to do it myself I have simply passed on opinions or information as I have heard it.

Mr. TURNER: Have you tried to get information?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: Yes, I have written to Ottawa to obtain information.

Mr. TURNER: Was information refused?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: No, I do not think so. I have it in my brief that I received information.

Mr. TURNER: Did you receive the information that you wanted to receive?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: I do not quite understand that question.

Mr. TURNER: If you as a broadcaster in the north were interested in telling people in the Keewatin district about this legislation, surely you had means to get that information from the department of northern affairs?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: Oh, yes, I tried to do it.

Mr. TURNER: You did?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: Yes, I wrote to the minister.

Mr. TURNER: Did you get the information which you sought?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: I got some information, but not all the information. I got such information as was available. I received a pamphlet to which I referred in my brief, a pamphlet which referred to the eastern Arctic as the residual part of the Northwest Territories.

Mr. TURNER: You tried to follow that up with other information that you deemed necessary?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: As I explained in my brief, I tried to get as much information as I could. I do not pretend to have all the knowledge on how to get information. I do not claim to be a specialist in this regard. I am very humble. I am simply trying to find out. I admit that I may not have gone to the right people, although I approached the minister of northern affairs, and the Prime Minister, and I thought that was a fairly good start.

Mr. TURNER: I am suggesting to you that you could have received all the information you wanted, and that we disagree there.

Mr. WILLIAMSON: Excuse me, Mr. Chairman. I am not quite sure what the questioner means by the fact that I could have received all the information I wanted. I did get all the information that seemed to be available.

Mr. TURNER: Other than your program and other than this newspaper that is published outside the Keewatin, is there any other means of communication with the 4,000 odd people who live around this vast territory, odd as opposed to even, not odd as opposed to normal?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: Well, Mr. Chairman, I have explained that all the sources of dissemination, all the facilities for the dissemination of information as exists in the south, are developing in the north. There is radio, there is a beginning body of newspaper journalism in the north, there is not enough of all this, and that is why we depend more on the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources. This is where the department of northern affairs has done such a wonderful job in filling in the gaps in the facilities in the north. It has also done a fine job in public relations elsewhere in Canada; but it could have done a fine job in public relations in the north of Canada in providing the information on the development towards this present legislation.

Mr. TURNER: I would suggest to you, Mr. Williamson, that as a broadcaster, with all the information available, you could have done—and probably have done—a fine job in telling your listeners all about this legislation.

Mr. WILLIAMSON: I have done my simple, humble best, Mr. Chairman, and possibly the department and other people could have done something too—more than they have—at least that is what other people in the north think.

Mr. TURNER: Except that the facilities are limited.

Mr. WILLIAMSON: I do not agree. When you imagine the volume of paper that pours out of Ottawa into the offices of all of the hard pressed area administrators in the north, among these bundles of paper could have been some information sheets about these developments.

As I pointed out in my brief, only two or three weeks ago, one of the most intelligent and experienced and well informed staff members of the department seriously thought that all of this that is going on here now was dedicated towards establishing two federal constituencies in the north. This is not because this man is stupid—he is a northerner, and a very bright one—but nobody told him.

Mr. TURNER: I have one more question. If I might, Mr. Chairman, I should like to make a concluding statement on which the witness may comment, as I am sure he will. I am suggesting to the witness that had the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources officers purveyed this information, which after all would be an opinion favouring the legislation, they would have been open to criticism by this house for having entered into a political arena, and that the prime means of distributing this information and circulating opinion would be the communication media itself.

Mr. RHEAUME: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman; the statement just made is incorrect as it is not necessary for the department of northern affairs to send out information. I do not know what has been going on since April 1953 but this never used to be the case when I worked with them.

Mr. WILLIAMSON: There seems to be a need for clarification in these terms. Perhaps Mr. Turner and I are wasting the time of the committee with our own inadequacy in the understanding of semantics. I apologize for mine at least. I believe that the department of northern affairs is sufficiently respected in the north that when it makes completely unslanted, objective statements of facts, this is accepted, and this should not necessarily be interpreted as propaganda.

This term “political” also needs to be clarified. If the department of northern affairs had distributed information saying that the fine, outstanding, Conservative party, the best party in Canada, has, in its great wisdom, decided to do this, this and this—for example—

Mr. TURNER: This is a highly theoretical assumption.

Mr. WILLIAMSON: This would be propaganda. Or else, if, at the present time, the present administration said “We are so impressed with the foresight of the previous administration that we, the Liberals, are going to improve and embellish upon this already excellent start by showing our great acumen as Liberals”, for example, and this had been passed through the paper channels of the department of northern affairs, this would be propaganda. However, when you just make a straight statement of information, this is information and it is done all over the world all the time.

Mr. TURNER: Surely we are not talking about partisanship; surely if a civil servant had actually informed on the division of territories, that would have political content, not partisan content because there would have been those for, and those against. For a civil servant, a member of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources, to have taken sides in that struggle, even by way of giving information, that would favour the one side and have had a political content.

Mr. WILLIAMSON: What about the help that the department of northern affairs gave in simply saying, “We are going to divide the territories; it is decided, and you can choose a name”?

Mr. DINSDALE: Can I put a question in at this point? Would the witness agree that the problem of the lack of dissemination of information in the eastern Arctic arose from the philosophy that he has referred to as the old residual philosophy here this afternoon, to the effect that the eastern Arctic was more or less written off as not being concerned with this whole question of greater independence and autonomy for the north? Therefore, it was included in any

discussions that went on in connection with plans for making this development possible. I present this question again, harking back to the article to which I referred this afternoon, the article in *Maclean's* magazine of January 27, 1962, which was highly critical of the former administration for not acting quickly enough in granting the federal franchise to the eastern Arctic. I think perhaps it would clarify my question if I gave another quotation from this article, which is in quotation marks, and reads as follows:

The native population have never had any form of political organization, and many of them simply would not understand what it means to cast a vote. They might be ready for the franchise in another ten years, but it would be a misplaced kindness to give it to them now.

And the comment of Mr. Peacock in this article is as follows:

The speaker was a senior Canadian government authority. He was explaining why 7,045 Canadian citizens, inhabiting an area as large as Quebec and Manitoba combined, would have no vote in the federal election expected this year.

This was the attitude at the time the question of extending the federal franchise was being actively discussed. Had it not been for the initiative of the member for the Yukon Territory who first made this proposal in a private member's resolution, we would not have had this expeditious action.

Coming down to my question again, would the witness say that the reason it was not discussed was the failure to recognize the fact that the eastern Arctic areas of the Canadian north were actively interested in the subject of political autonomy and independence of action and were sufficiently politically literate to have been called upon to give some consideration to these proposals?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: If I understand that question, Mr. Chairman, I would say I think it is true that the whole Canadian public has not sufficiently appreciated and understood, or even thought about, the readiness of its northern Canadian citizens to participate in its political life.

Mr. KORCHINSKI: I was just wondering, Mr. Chairman, if the witness would care to comment on the possibility of perhaps splitting the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources into two sections: one being the section concerned with the sociological development of that area, and the other being concerned with the economic development of the area. If it appears evident that the western area is going to be developed more quickly, then perhaps this one would be segregated within the department; that is, I would say it is not the whole area which should be separated completely but perhaps more emphasis should be given to one area as opposed to another. Eventually the entire area could be incorporated using the same principles and ideas as might apply to the area that appears ready for development at the moment, in terms of mineral and oil resources; whereas the eastern area might be slowed in its development.

Mr. WILLIAMSON: I think some of the finest organizational brains in the Canadian civil service have already anticipated Mr. Korchinski's intent there in that quite some time ago the various faculties or divisions of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources were established to tackle right across the north the various types of problems. There is an industrial division which has done a remarkably fine job. We spoke of co-operatives; the industrial division is responsible for the stimulation and development of co-operatives. There is the welfare division concerned with human problems, community development who have been assisted in all these things by the administration which is all things to all men. This type of division of function with integration has already been organized in the department extremely well. The

breakdown has simply been the long line of communication between the decision makers in the south and the people who carry the responsibility but not the executive authority in the north.

Mr. KORCHINSKI: I did not quite get the breakdown.

Mr. WILLIAMSON: This is on paper the categorical division of the department's functions which is excellent and very well thought out. The failure of this is not anyone's fault, it is simply geographical and sociological, in that the people who really make the decisions here in Ottawa are simply too remote from the day to day realities of the north. This is why, in relation to Bill C-83 and Bill C-84, I am suggesting that the federal functions of the government which will continue to be performed, should be guided by the elected representatives of the northern people.

Mr. TURNER: I would like to ask the witness whether he feels he is still short of information necessary to judge these two bills?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I think I am, and I think everybody else here is short of information because the rest of the population of the Northwest Territories has not been consulted, because the full sociological, economic and administrative implications of this whole move have not been fully analysed and documented. Yes, we are short of information because there has been no fully representative deliberation on this legislation.

Mr. TURNER: So it gets down to this, Mr. Williamson that, as you said in response to an earlier question of mine, the case has not yet been proven so far as you are concerned?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: The case for the division has not been proven as far as I am concerned.

Mr. TURNER: Because of a lack, in your mind, of the necessary administrative, technical, economic and sociological information?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: And the information about the feelings of the people in the north as they may and should demonstrate them through the normal democratic process that takes place in the rest of the country.

Mr. TURNER: For the purpose of our exchange I will concede the latter half if you will concede the first half.

Mr. WILLIAMSON: Yes, I would like to see the federally supported research agencies doing a great deal more fact finding in the north and providing this information to the elected decision makers of the north.

Mr. TURNER: I am relatively encouraged by your answer because it does outline to me that you still have an open mind about it if the case is proven.

Mr. WILLIAMSON: Thank you, Mr. Turner.

Mr. TURNER: Would that be a fair assumption?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: Yes.

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): You mentioned earlier in your testimony the adoption of proper safeguards for the preservation of Eskimo culture in the eastern Arctic. I would like to state that as far as our Indian population is concerned, the disappearance of much of our original Indian culture and the lack of progress of a large segment of our Indian population have been the result of the paternalism of the Indian affairs department, the inability of our Indian affairs department to encourage our Indian people to do things on their own. Do you see a danger of this happening with our Eskimo population at the moment in the eastern Arctic in your area?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: The time of the committee and the truth can both be served with one word—yes.

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): I will change the subject now. I am sure you would like to spend the next half hour telling us about this, but I will go to the two last questions I have.

You mentioned that you felt all the representatives on the council for the territories should be elected representatives. Do you not feel that because the money that is spent in the Northwest Territories emanates in one way or another from the federal government that the federal government should therefore have representatives on this council who are not elected representatives but represent the point of view of the federal government?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: I do not feel there should be representatives on the legislating body of the Northwest Territories making decisions on the expenditures of federal funds any more than there should be federal representatives sitting on the cabinet of Nova Scotia or Prince Edward Island.

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): But surely the situations are slightly different.

Mr. WILLIAMSON: I do not think so; just in a matter of degree, just in a matter of historical degree.

May I ask for clarification?

Mr. RHEAUME: May I ask a supplementary question which would clarify?

The CHAIRMAN: If the witness does not understand the first question how could he understand the supplementary?

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): What part of my question did you want clarified?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: I would like to discover the distinction that is being made in the mind of Mr. Watson between one self-governing legislative body which receives federal subsidy and another one.

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): The distinction in my mind is this. Almost all the money in the Northwest Territories emanates from the federal government in one way or another; whereas the provinces have their own source of revenue.

Mr. WILLIAMSON: So do the Northwest Territories, and they will continue to have a greater amount of internal resources; and these internal resources will amplify and multiply and accumulate so much the faster, Mr. Chairman, as I pointed out this afternoon, if the people who guide the economy of our country and invest the capital in our country have greater confidence in the government of the north by knowing that the government is in the hands of northerners.

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): What is the percentage of revenue derived from local resources in the Northwest Territories?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: I am afraid I could not give you an accurate figure, and I suspect this committee wants accurate figures. Perhaps this could be provided by the member for Brandon-Souris or the member for the Northwest Territories.

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): Do you feel the lines of communication, both physical—and by that I mean air communication—and otherwise run from east to west?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: Communication of ideas?

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): Yes both physical communication and communication of ideas. Do you feel they run east-west of the Northwest Territories or is there a valid argument to your mind that, as far as the eastern Arctic is concerned, the lines of communication run simply north and south between Ottawa and the territory rather than from the eastern Arctic west to a central capital in the Mackenzie river area?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: The lines of communication between Ottawa and the north have been built up because of the needs of government, because of

the need to send their representatives to Ottawa and back to the territories. There were no established lines north and south across the Northwest Territories except the natural line of the Mackenzie valley, followed by Alexander Mackenzie and by the meandering course of the *Nascopeie*, the supply ship that travelled around the Arctic from Montreal. These were the only lines of communication, but the indigenous population travelled east and west—the Eskimo people.

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): From the administrative angle—

Mr. WILLIAMSON: Because power has been located in Ottawa, these lines of communication have gone north and south; but this is not necessarily to suggest that these lines are fully efficient.

Perhaps, Mr. Chairman, I could explain myself with a very short and simple example taken from an incident which occurred on the day I left my home in Rankin Inlet, or the day before, when the local R.C.M.P. officer received a telegram from Yellowknife, 700 miles away—which in the north is spitting distance, three hours flying time from Yellowknife to Rankin Inlet—asking him what were the air strip conditions for a C-46 operation. A C-46 is a fairly substantial transport aircraft. He replied asking for more information and heard it was a department of northern affairs charter aircraft. The local man representing the department of northern affairs, with great dedication and sincerity, knew nothing about this. Presumably if an aircraft of that size is about to enter his area something fairly substantial should have been prepared. Perhaps he would have to move a fair amount of equipment; perhaps a fair number of people were coming to work in the mines; perhaps he would have to interview some 10 or 15 men to find out about their health, their wives' health, their children's health, which creates a lot of work. Perhaps many things should have been done, but he had not the slightest idea when the plane was due. He knew nothing and could do nothing. I am sure in Yellowknife something had been organized by the department and lines north and south followed faithfully.

The regional administrator undoubtedly had been in touch with the man at Port Smith. He was able to communicate with the branch office here in Ottawa, who themselves undoubtedly were working day and night and with a tremendous accumulation of paper, would take a few days to communicate with the Arctic district office a few blocks down the street, who in their turn would be able to communicate with the regional administrator in Churchill, who is a very badly overworked man and has a great deal of paper to move, and in due course he would be able to send a memorandum to the area administrator in Rankin Inlet 700 miles away, who could tell him about the plane and what he should do about it—four or five weeks after the plane arrived.

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): So you feel, purely from an administrative point of view, that there are things to be said for administering the proposed Nunassiat territory from Ottawa directly rather than from the territory?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: Emphatically the opposite, Mr. Chairman. No, no, no—and again I repeat, no.

Mr. TURNER: If I might just interject, I have heard as a member of this committee, Mr. Williamson, all sorts of talk about the area of communication between east and west. I took the trouble to ask the air transport board to tell me what were the scheduled commercial air lines between east and west and just for the record at this stage and for the benefit of the committee, as this subject has come up before, the result of my research is that there are no scheduled commercial flights from east to west or west to east in the Northwest Territories.

Other than by charter, the only way to travel by scheduled commercial air line flights from a point in the eastern Arctic to a point in the western Arctic, for instance, from Frobisher to Yellowknife, and stay in the territories without coming south, is to go from Frobisher up to Resolute via Hall Beach by Nordair, once weekly, and from Resolute to Yellowknife via Cambridge Bay by a twice-monthly flight. I have also been advised that there are infrequent flights to Resolute by Rankin Inlet and so on, as far as T.W.A. and Nordair operations are concerned this is a straight north-south flight. They all have a common terminal at Resolute. On a commercial basis the air lines have not been able to establish economic east-west communications. That is what I am advised.

What I am worried about is that if the air force base at Resolute is withdrawn, as we are led to believe it is going to be from the recent statements, that takes out the whole pivotal point of whatever communication there is in that direction so that we are really talking in terms of what we hope the future may develop. In terms of actual economic fact, the transportation routes commercially and economically do not run that way.

Mr. RHEAUME: On a point of order, I would like to suggest to Mr. Turner that the best way to find out what aircraft are doing in the north is to spend some time there rather than with the air transport board. The fact that currently flights run from the eastern side and from western side north and south is because of the historically developed traffic which is to meet the needs of government administration, which is southern oriented and has had to run north and south. Just the movement of personnel moving north from south on junkets would be sufficient for setting it up. I have travelled many times, as a northern affairs officer does, from west to east. The bulk of travel that needs attention of the administrators is reached by charter aircraft, otherwise Canadian taxpayers would not be paying out \$5,000 or \$6,000 a year in charter bills for government officers so they can travel around. In fact then, the argument that this is what exists now and therefore cannot be changed or would not be changed is not valid if the same number of northern affairs officials moved out of headquarters. Once we get self government in that country it would justify setting up a route east-west.

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): I think we should have someone from northern affairs to give us some figures.

Mr. TURNER: I will volunteer that that will be done and that the so-called junkets would not demonstrate the proposition put forward by Mr. Rhéaume. At the moment it is only north and south, and the only way you can go at the present time is by expensive charter flights.

Mr. RHEAUME: It is nonsense.

Mr. WILLIAMSON: May I leech a question out of this exchange and make an answer to it?

The CHAIRMAN: This is on a point of order, and you are not requested to answer a point of order. I believe Mr. Rhéaume gave some explanation, but since he raised it as a point of order I believe I can say that the information was given when Mr. Pearson was a witness—and if I am mistaken the committee will correct me—that there is a newly established commercial air line from west to east.

Mr. RHEAUME: Correction, Mr. Chairman. I made the point that air line companies within the Northwest Territories are interested in developing this service and would develop the service if in fact the north were administered on an east-west basis.

The CHAIRMAN: Then the Chair was under a false belief. You were informing Mr. Pearson that there was an east-west service.

Mr. RHEAUME: This is the one that Mr. Turner says is going to be withdrawn when his government closes out Resolute bay.

The CHAIRMAN: I believe he is referring to a service—

Mr. RHEAUME: Commercial operators are going from the two sides of the territories to Resolute bay.

Mr. TURNER: I am just trying to deal in terms of present facts not in terms of assumptions.

The CHAIRMAN: I do not suppose the Chair is too well informed in terms of these flights, but I take it the committee can have the opportunity of knowing what the transportation services are by air. Are there any other questions?

Mr. DINSDALE: I think there was a question directed to the witness on this point and I believe he is trying to answer.

Mr. TURNER: He has a very frustrated look!

The CHAIRMAN: There was a question?

Mr. DINSDALE: Yes, it was interrupted by a point of order.

Mr. WILLIAMSON: I believe there was a question.

Mr. TURNER: I have no objection to comment from the witness if you would like, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. WILLIAMSON: It is my impression that these now established lines of communication north and south were stimulated by the passage to a large degree of government personnel north and south from Ottawa. In other words, the government were responsible, because they had their headquarters in Ottawa, for establishing to a certain extent these north-south lines—obviously supply lines had to come north and south.

Mr. TURNER: Was it not basically an economic line from Montreal, north?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: It was a defence line.

Mr. TURNER: And then economics of mining came into it?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: Yes, the department has substantially aided in this process by this movement north and south, and to my knowledge a Yellowknife operator has contemplated establishing a scheduled air line east-west taking in Fort Smith, Yellowknife, Baker lake, Rankin Inlet, Coral harbour and Frobisher bay. In other words, he contemplates spanning a very large part of the whole of the Northwest Territories if an administration were authoritatively established in the north. Just as the government has stimulated a great deal of north-south travel, this operator, who is a businessman, believes that if effective government were located in the north so there would be stimulated travel east and west within the territories.

Mr. TURNER: The government itself cannot make a scheduled air line feasible unless there are economic reasons for air communication. Except in those circumstances, government itself will not establish and cannot make profitable an air line.

Mr. WILLIAMSON: This is happening, for example, in my own settlement of Rankin Inlet: Eskimos are now passing east and west from Rankin to Yellowknife. A year ago three Eskimos who went to the Flat river tungsten mine in the western Northwest Territories had to travel from Rankin to Churchill to Winnipeg to Edmonton, and then back up to the Yukon, to Watson lake and then to Flat river. There is an increasing movement east and west. Eskimos are going also eastwards. Some have already gone and others will follow to the new mining development in northern Quebec. Again Rankin Inlet is a pivotal point here, and it could equally serve as a terminus. People are moving backwards and forwards across the north now in increasing numbers for work, for industry. As Mr. Turner has pointed out, government is not the only agency which can stimulate travel, but just as a railway has been

established in uneconomic parts of the north by government stimulation in the past and other industries have taken advantage of this, so I think we can assume that as economic determinants emerge, government, industry and all other interests would make use of east-west transportation lines across the Northwest Territories.

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): Do you therefore feel, Mr. Williamson, that the administration of Nunassiat territory will be improved or rather maintained at a high degree of efficiency by north-south communication as opposed to east-west communication from a central point in the Mackenzie area?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: I do not believe I said that, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. ALKENBRACK: I have not been here at all the sessions, Mr. Chairman, but from the evidence I have heard here it appears that citizens of the eastern Arctic have not been sufficiently informed of the intentions of the government to legislate them into a separate administrative territory. Is that true, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: Yes.

Mr. ALKENBRACK: They have not been sufficiently informed in your opinion?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: That is my opinion, Mr. Chairman. It is not only my opinion, Mr. Chairman; this is the fact.

Mr. ALKENBRACK: It is the fact that they have not been sufficiently informed of the intentions of the government?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I believe any member of this committee could go north now and discover a large degree of ignorance about what is going on here today and the implications of it.

Mr. ALKENBRACK: In our so-called older and better organized sections of the country we quite often revert to a plebiscite or a referendum to decide whether or not certain organized areas should be divided or united for administrative purposes. What would the response be, Mr. Chairman, from the people of the eastern Arctic and of all the Northwest Territories for that matter, to a referendum or plebiscite since all adults up there now are qualified to vote? What would be their response to a referendum for or against the division of the territories?

Mr. WILLIAMSON: Mr. Chairman, I am in no position to predict the result of any formal electoral process.

Mr. ALKENBRACK: I did not ask the witness to predict. I asked him what would be the response of the people towards an opportunity in the democratic way that is pursued by the remainder of Canada.

Mr. WILLIAMSON: I think that the population of the Northwest Territories would greatly welcome any democratic form of consultation on its future, including the way which the member has suggested.

Mr. ALKENBRACK: The witness has still not answered my question.

Mr. WILLIAMSON: I am sorry.

Mr. ALKENBRACK: Would the people, the qualified voters up there, welcome an opportunity of a referendum for or against it? Some would vote for it and some would vote against it, probably expressing their opinion by ballot, whether or not to split the territories.

Mr. WILLIAMSON: I am not in a position to speak for the whole of the people of the eastern Arctic. But as one of them, and as one who has discussed it with a large number of them, I would think that they would certainly welcome such a move.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions? If not, then Mr. William-son, it would be definitely proper for me to thank you at this time for your long, and strenuous testimony. The committee I am sure appreciates your efforts in coming here. We know the trip was an arduous one, and we hope you have a lovely trip back. Thank you very much.

I now call on the Rev. Father Louis Lemer. Father Lemer indicates that he would prefer to testify in French, so I presume he will proceed that way. I do not see any microphones in front of me. I wonder if the translator can reach my voice.

Gentlemen, Rev. Father Lemer wishes to give his evidence in French. On the other hand I hope that those who wish to do so will make use of their earphones. I would ask Father Lemer, in the same way that we have had an opportunity to ask other witnesses, to be so kind as to give a few general ideas to the committee on the two bills in question. Father Lemer has read them and probably knows the general principles involved. I would ask Father Lemer at this time to give a general statement with regard to his evidence.

Rev. Father LOUIS LEMER (*O.M.I., Chairman of the Cambridge Bay Community Association, Cambridge Bay, Northwest Territories*): Mr. Chairman, I am sorry not to introduce my remarks in a formal way because I did not have the time required to write a brief. Later however I may have an opportunity of referring to a brief which was prepared and recognized by the community council of Cambridge bay.

As you know, Cambridge bay is right on the conventional, imaginary line, which was chosen as the division point for the proposed division of the territories. In a certain way then we are more interested in this matter than other people, because it happens that we straddle the line in Cambridge bay, which is on the southern shore of Victoria island. We straddle the line which was proposed in these bills. It cuts the area in two.

When we originally or officially got wind of this proposed division—this came of course at a very late date—it was in fact made known to us very indirectly and without proper information, as some of us realize. While we had no discussion of the bills we realized that we were primarily involved in this matter.

As was explained a moment ago, some people have not perhaps made themselves sufficiently aware of the importance of this east-west traffic. In our case all traffic goes east-west; all communication goes east-west; administration goes east-west; and health services go east-west. As recently as last week we had five plane trips of from 400 to 500 miles to Cambridge bay.

There was a very serious problem involved in this connection. We had a sick woman who was practically dying. We had to send these people to Cambridge bay from several hundred miles away from Cambridge bay. This I think shows that the administrative services could be more developed in Cambridge bay itself. I think we should have more health assistance in Cambridge bay. But the fact is that these sick people had to travel 400 miles. After that, I travelled with them until ten o'clock at night, in a temperature of 35 degrees below zero. These Eskimo sick people were put on a DC-4 coming from Resolute bay, and they had to travel for 3 to 3½ hours more to reach Yellowknife and then to Edmonton. I have put this point before you. I have not come really prepared. I have to take my inspiration from what has come from previous elements.

The CHAIRMAN: I appreciate the difficulty. I do not like to interrupt you at this point, but the primary interest of the committee is concerning the type of new government which could be approved for the Northwest Territories. The economic difficulties, the transportation difficulties may of course be discussed, but only in so far as they relate to the type of government involved.

The discussion you have heard with regard to the east-west communications was designed to determine if the territories should be divided in two; and if it was possible to serve the eastern part administratively just as well by having the capital in the western part of the territories.

I have no wish to limit your evidence, but the material in regard to hospitalization, accommodation, transportation, and the development of natural resources is not of primary interest to our survey. I think, if the committee will allow me to say so, we should limit ourselves to determining whether or not we should change the administrative set up in the territories as a result of setting up an eastern capital in Fort Smith, and to provide also the eastern part of the territory with a government with five appointed members and two elected members on the spot. That is the primary concern of our committee. I understand it is impossible to do so without giving a little colour to our evidence, but the problem of hospitalization and the problem of transportation except in so far as they have reference to the type to be employed in the territories cannot be discussed as such in our evidence.

Father LEMER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for this clarification. However we are mainly concerned with this matter of division. That is what I would like to insist upon. I have reference to the human point. It has been neglected. I have nothing against the administration as such. I have noted, and we have all noted, that the human point of view, the human interest of Indian and Eskimo has been neglected, and it is precisely on that point on which I was insisting when I spoke of the condition of these Eskimos. If there were a decision made, you can easily say that is only 100 miles east of Cambridge bay and you would have a different administration from that to the west of Cambridge bay. That is why I referred to the Eskimo point of view, the human point of view. The Eskimo knows nothing about this purely functional and imaginary division.

In other evidence you have heard you have been told that for hundreds of years the Eskimo relationship was largely in an east-west line. In Cambridge bay we have Eskimos going east-west in trapping, and for other reasons. In summer we have ships going east and west. The Eskimos have understood nothing about the lack of information. That has certainly been dealt with by preceding witnesses.

I just wanted to say that the Cambridge bay council recognized that there was no real and valid reason for bringing this division into effect. That is why when the council voted, some officials did not vote. But I learned that the majority of the council decided against the division, and I know that government officials were of the same opinion as we were. That is the only point I would like to bring before you. That is why I have come before you. I must insist on the fact that this resolution is against this division. The Cambridge bay council is against it. The council consists not only of white men but also of Eskimos. The majority of the council are Eskimos and they are very admirable people. When it was explained to them for the first time what it was all about, they understood. Of the Eskimos on the council at least 20 raised their hands and said they were against it. This is the second point. Since we do not want this division, would you like us to give our idea of a proposed solution?

The CHAIRMAN: The bills are designed to bring about division and to grant two local governments to the two areas, giving to one more autonomy than to the other, the western part being more autonomous than the eastern part. If you have any general feelings on the matter, we would be glad to hear them.

Father LEMER: I have just explained that the whole council agreed that it was not in agreement on this division because all the Eskimos call their

country one land, and there is no reason at all to divide it. They said, simply, that if the land were divided, the whole administration would just be duplicated. They could see absolutely no reason to carry out this division. Even the white people who live there feel that it is something that is merely creating a complexity, or something that would result in complexity. I believe that is quite adequate as an introduction to my remarks.

The CHAIRMAN: Father Lemer indicates that he will terminate his general remarks. He has provided a few facts which could be of assistance to the committee in assessing the value of his evidence. Father Lemer has been a missionary there for about 30 years, even though he looks rather young. That is the fact. He has worked at Baker lake, Coppermine, and at Cambridge bay where he presently lives. He has visited a number of areas where the Eskimos and Indians live. He speaks Eskimo himself fluently. He is editor of a monthly magazine called *Nuna*, which is published in the Eskimo language, and also in English. He is at the present time chairman of the community association of Cambridge bay. If the members of the committee have any questions you wish to ask, you may use your earphones and you will understand the translation. I believe Father Lemer will follow the questions in English.

Mr. RHEAUME: As a member for the Northwest Territories I received in the mail a copy of the resolution passed on December 5 by the Cambridge bay community association. I assume this was also sent to the Hon. Arthur Laing and others interested. I wonder if Father Lemer would care to read into the record at this time the wording of the resolution that was passed by his council.

Father LEMER: The resolution reads as follows:

At the meeting of the Cambridge bay community council of December 2, the proposed division of the Northwest Territories was discussed both in English and Eskimo. The following conclusion was reached.

Whereas this plan is being forced on us without consultation, representation, or our consent, and

Whereas such a division would interrupt normal commercial and administrative ties east-west along the northern coast, and

Whereas such a division would place an artificial boundary between the peoples of the north, dividing the Eskimo population, and

Whereas such a division would set up the eastern Arctic as a colony controlled indefinitely by Ottawa, and would subject a large number of citizens of the Northwest Territories to an indefinite disqualification from voting for territorial government representatives, and

Whereas such a division would cause duplication of administrative organizations and thus would increase the per capita administration costs in both sections, and

Whereas such a division would prejudice sound planning throughout the north by creating a condition of rivalry between sections for government grants and projects, and

Whereas such a division would deprive the people of the proposed Mackenzie Territory of the tax revenues of the potential oil and mineral resources of the Arctic islands, and

Whereas such a division does not conform to the constitutional guarantees provided by the British North America Act of 1867 setting up the Northwest Territory, and

Whereas the proposed legislation does not provide for civil courts and the administration of civil justice in the eastern Arctic, and fails to provide for other such important matters, and

Whereas the name, "Northwest Territories" is an old and historic one, as old as Canada itself,

Be it resolved that the Cambridge bay community council opposed the proposed division of the Northwest Territories and that letters stating our opposition be sent to the persons directly concerned.

Mr. TURNER (*Interpretation*): You have written to me when I visited Cambridge bay, and if my questions are directed, to some extent, against the resolution of your people, it is because obviously I for the moment represent the department of northern affairs.

What is the population of Cambridge bay?

Rev. LEMER (*Interpretation*): Three hundred and forty-eight people in Cambridge bay itself and in the adjoining areas. Cambridge bay is the centre of the whole area from the point of view of communication and health administration. The area includes Perry river, Holman island, Bathurst inlet, Gjoa Haven, Pelly bay and Coppermine. This is one whole region.

Mr. TURNER (*Interpretation*): Were the people who took part in the meeting only from Cambridge bay?

Rev. LEMER: Yes, 348 people.

Mr. TURNER (*Interpretation*): How many people, out of the whole population, gathered at this meeting?

Rev. LEMER (*Interpretation*): Twenty-five to 30, which is a pretty good proportion.

Mr. TURNER (*Interpretation*): Out of the population of 340 or so, how many people are Eskimos and how many are whites?

Rev. LEMER (*Interpretation*): There are 200 Eskimos and about 100 are whites with the exception of the people working on the D.E.W. line which has its headquarters there.

Mr. TURNER (*Interpretation*): Of these white people how many work for the civil service?

Rev. LEMER (*Interpretation*): Most of them, but the majority are Eskimos and we make it a point of having a majority of Eskimos. The vice chairman is an Eskimo.

Mr. TURNER (*Interpretation*): Was there somebody there at this meeting to explain the terms of these bills?

Rev. LEMER (*Interpretation*): I was the chairman and I made it a point to have the main considerations explained.

The village council has an executive board and we worked on this brief which we discussed afterwards, as we are doing now. We discussed all these points one by one and we made the corrections, as necessary. This was put to a vote after a discussion of an hour.

Mr. TURNER (*Interpretation*): Let us not mention names, but were there any civil servants there?

Rev. LEMER (*Interpretation*): There were no civil servants. There was a schoolmaster on the executive, and the others were independent people.

Mr. TURNER (*Interpretation*): Did you discuss with your member, Mr. Rheaume, this matter before the meeting where you presided as chairman?

Rev. LEMER (*Interpretation*): We did not even know that this was going to come up. It is only when the telegram came three days ago asking us to name a representative to come down here that we heard of it. I was chosen, being the chairman.

Mr. TURNER (*Interpretation*): Was there somebody there to represent the department's point of view?

Rev. LEMER (*Interpretation*): You mean from the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources? There was a representative there but he did not open his mouth.

Mr. TURNER (*Interpretation*): Then the point of view of the department was not expressed?

Rev. LEMER (*Interpretation*): We would have liked to have some information. This matter was talked of for the last two or three years. Any white person or any Eskimo could have found a better name. This business of a referendum on a name is childish. A lot more could have been said about this.

Mr. TURNER (*Interpretation*): And at this meeting, the point of view of the department was not explained.

Mr. RHEAUME: On a point of order, Mr. Turner established the fact that the department could not possibly have given a point of view.

The CHAIRMAN: It is understood.

Mr. TURNER: Thank you, Reverend Mr. Lemer.

Mr. CYR (*Interpretation*): You say there are 450 people in Cambridge bay? Is your mission limited to Cambridge bay?

Rev. LEMER (*Interpretation*): It extends over the whole area, 100 miles east and 100 miles west, and as for the north it extends indefinitely because there is nobody there.

Mr. CYR (*Interpretation*): What is the whole population of your entire territory?

Rev. LEMER (*Interpretation*): When we speak of Cambridge bay we speak of the whole area served by that centre. Of course, by far the larger number of people is concentrated in the Cambridge bay settlement, but we should consider the whole as an area, including the village, the little settlements which are 50 or 100 miles out.

Mr. CYR (*Interpretation*): Cambridge bay is one of the most important settlements in this new territory.

Father LEMER: As I explained a moment ago, we straddle this imaginary line which the government is attempting to foist upon us. This will divide our territory. Our territory will be divided in two. Some families will come under one administration and others will come in the Mackenzie district, so-called. You will see what will happen. There will be an administrator who will have two types of paper to prepare and Eskimos will have to ask permission from one administrator in one area and as soon as they move into the next area to fish elsewhere, they will have to discuss their problems with another administrator in another administration.

Mr. CYR (*Interpretation*): Speaking as a missionary, you are probably the official who travels most in this territory, outside the employees of the department of northern affairs.

Father LEMER (*Interpretation*): Yes, nowadays we do not travel as much but, though I do not want to boast, I can say that we know the Eskimos a lot better than other people.

Mr. CYR (*Interpretation*): You say it is only over the past few weeks that you have heard reference to this division?

Father LEMER (*Interpretation*): It is only over the last few weeks that this has become serious. We heard about Nunassiaq but we did not know exactly what was at stake. We had no idea of all the problems involved in this division. It is only when we found out that there were discussions here in the house that we said, "Well, it's about time we knew something about it; it's high time we informed ourselves on this matter." That is why we have travelled 2,000

miles to come here. That is why we spent two sleepless nights coming here. Though, mind you, we have listened to interesting matters. However, you can see it is a little worrisome.

Mr. DINSDALE: Father Lemer, you made reference to the referendum on the choice of the names. How was this referendum carried out?

Father LEMER: We were not involved in it itself because we are in what we call the Mackenzie district and because we had the sheets with the names proposed to us.

Mr. DINSDALE: Did you have some basic information to the effect that division was contemplated? Was there any detailed information as to what was involved in this division?

Father LEMER: I would say myself personally that I had some, but what about the Eskimos? Even the educated Eskimos did not know. It was not my duty to tell them what was going to happen. How much did I know myself? Not so much that I could tell them.

Mr. DINSDALE: Were the Eskimos within your missionary district asked to vote on a choice of names?

Father LEMER: They were given a list and it was up to them. They were free to suggest a name, as I did myself. That is the least we could do and that was the only thing we were asked to do; that was not very much. Then after that we expected some information, but we were not told in that sheet of paper what we were offered; indeed, it was not very much.

Mr. DINSDALE: I take it, Mr. Chairman, that the only question asked of the Eskimos was as to the choice of a name; there was no explanation.

Father LEMER: None.

Mr. DINSDALE: There was no explanation of what was contemplated in terms of the type of administration that would be involved in the new Nunassiat territory or the new Mackenzie territory.

Father LEMER (*Interpretation*): It is not up to me to answer Mr. Dinsdale's questions. I can ask him what was in that sheet and what explanation was given to the Eskimos in that sheet. I cannot remember exactly but I do remember it was not much. I can ask Mr. Dinsdale what was in it because it was under your administration that this name was chosen, so you should be able to give me the information. What did you yourself suggest to the Eskimo?

Mr. DINSDALE: This matter was handled by the Northwest Territories council and I think the problem—at least this is the information that is coming out of the evidence—is that the eastern Arctic was not consulted in specific terms with regard to the nature of the division. This matter was all handled by the Northwest Territories council. Any action that is contemplated by the parliament of Canada merely reflects the wishes of the Northwest Territories council. What I am trying to discover in these questions—

Mr. TURNER: On a point of order, the piece of information Father Lemer is referring to was a federal document sent out from Ottawa.

Mr. DINSDALE: It was sent out by the commissioner of the Northwest Territories.

Mr. TURNER: Who happened to be deputy minister of the Department of Northern Affairs.

Mr. NIELSEN: The resolution was sent out by Ottawa.

Mr. TURNER: The information about the names was sent out from Ottawa and was not a matter dealt with by the Northwest Territories council.

Mr. DINSDALE: It was.

The CHAIRMAN: I am sure the witness cannot solve the problem that the two members have raised. I think we should try to benefit as much as we can from the knowledge the witness has.

Father LEMER (*Interpretation*): However, Mr. Chairman, another point comes to my mind here. This little referendum did not include the Mackenzie district and the Eskimos from the Mackenzie should have had as much to say as those who proposed this division; at least I think so.

Mr. DINSDALE: The point I am trying to establish in this questioning is simply this: the reason that the former administration wanted a committee of this kind was to clarify issues that have since come before this committee because, as I have indicated, the parliament of Canada was pretty well dependent on the information that came out of the deliberations of the Northwest Territories council.

Pursuing this question further, there has been a general feeling—and this has been reflected in some of the comments or the quotes that I have given from the article in *Maclean's* magazine—of resistance to giving the federal vote to the eastern Arctic. It also suggests that there has been a feeling, in the southern parts of Canada at least, and certainly in the parliament of Canada, that the residents of the eastern Arctic were not capable of exercising the franchise, either territorially or federally. What would your opinion be on that attitude?

Father LEMER (*Interpretation*): Mr. Chairman, if I understood this properly, Mr. Dinsdale would like to know what is the position of the Eskimo with regard to the right to vote.

The CHAIRMAN: No, he wants to know your opinion of the capabilities of the Eskimos with regard to their right to vote in the eastern territories.

Father LEMER: The right to vote was granted some years ago, but since then the situation has changed a good deal. Eskimos are quite conscious of the fact that this is far more serious than can be believed. Of course, at first they did understand it was not a joke, but since then they have become increasingly conscious of this fact, especially now the eastern part is included and now it is represented in parliament. The situation is changing very quickly because of the education now being provided to our Eskimos.

Mr. TURNER (*Interpretation*): On that point, you are aware of the fact that these two bills extend the franchise to Cambridge Bay?

Father LEMER (*Interpretation*): We have the right to vote.

Mr. TURNER (*Interpretation*): You have it now, but these two bills give you in Cambridge Bay the right to vote for the territories council?

Father LEMER: We have no representatives on the territorial council.

Mr. TURNER: At least two members were provided with the right to vote. You have the right to vote federally, but you do not have the right to vote for the territorial council.

Father LEMER: We do not have any territorial council.

Mr. TURNER: But these two bills would give you the right to vote for a council.

Father LEMER: Of course, that is a requirement.

Mr. NIELSEN: Do you think that any Canadian has the right to determine whether any other Canadian has the right to vote?

Father LEMER: Well!

The CHAIRMAN: Do you feel that that question falls within the realm of this witness? You are asking for legal advice.

Mr. NIELSEN: No, I am asking a question on a matter of justice.

Mr. TURNER: I think the question to Father Lemer was not directed in any condescending way. Presently under the territorial constitution there is no right to vote territorially given to the people of Cambridge bay. I think the two bills at least improve that situation. I make no comment one way or the other on whether one citizen has the right to determine whether another citizen has the right to vote.

The CHAIRMAN: Was your question supplementary?

Mr. NIELSEN: No. I merely suggested it to the witness. But I will do it directly. I say that no Canadian has the right to determine whether any other Canadian has the right to vote.

Mr. DINSDALE: Supplementary to the point raised by Mr. Nielsen, I think this is the essence of our problem here: the recommendations for a Northwest territorial council without reference to residents of the eastern Arctic. I think we have established this point beyond peradventure now.

The CHAIRMAN: Through your indirect testimony, yes, but not through the witnesses.

Mr. DINSDALE: I will ask this question of the witness, then: I take it from Father Lemer's evidence here that the residents of the eastern Arctic were not consulted in any detail, or were not consulted at all as to their wishes in this matter of giving more autonomy to any government of the north, and particularly in regard to dividing the territory. I think Father Lemer has already made this point. Am I correct in that?

Father LEMER: You have me all mixed up. Would you mind repeating your question?

Mr. DINSDALE: I shall repeat it. Briefly, I think you have indicated in your evidence tonight that the residents of the eastern Arctic, particularly the Eskimo, were not consulted as to their wishes, and on how greater independence was to be achieved in the government of the north. The Eskimos were not consulted in this regard.

Father LEMER: Mr. Chairman, I have insisted on the fact that we simply asked for their opinion on the name to be chosen for the new territory. Otherwise I cannot see what the submission was drafted for, or what is the actual meaning of the proposed division.

Mr. RHEAUME: Under the proposed legislation the people at Cambridge bay would be given the territorial vote. But the people at Gjoa Haven, and Spence bay, and Pelly bay would not have an opportunity to vote even on the eastern side. Does the Father have any comments to make on that situation?

Father LEMER: Mr. Chairman, that is indeed the case. Those Eskimos who live just next to Cambridge bay, but east of Cambridge bay, they would not have the privilege of voting, as you have said.

Mr. NIELSEN: I think they should have it. Do you think the Eskimos there should have the right to vote for the territorial council?

Father LEMER: The Eskimos are Canadian citizens, and to an ever increasing degree we must admit that they are conscious that they have a role to play, and they want to be consulted. This has happened over a few short years. We have seen Eskimo children who well understand their duties as citizens.

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): You said that the proposed division passes a new line east of Cambridge bay.

Father LEMER: It is 100 miles, but it is still in the Cambridge bay area.

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): Could you give us an idea of the number of Eskimos who live beyond the congested border and who might like to move to and from Cambridge bay?

Father LEMER: You mean those Eskimos who belong to the Gjoa Haven settlement?

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): I mean those Eskimos who go to and fro beyond the border.

Mr. TURNER: Those people who travel across the border.

Father LEMER: This happens every day.

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): Do a large number of Indians go beyond this border? Does this number increase every year, or are there just a dozen or so?

Father LEMER: You cannot count Eskimos by the hundreds, but all these settlements east are really just one with Cambridge bay; they belong to the same families. They come to Cambridge bay to buy and to trap; the children come to Cambridge bay to go to school. From Inuvik or Yellowknife there is continuous movement to and from.

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): What is the possible maximum of Eskimos who would be affected by the division? Would it be 200 or 300 or more?

Father LEMER: Two or 300; that is a large population in that country. But just think, in ten years this population might double, and in 25 to 30 years this figure might double again. But it is a fact that our Eskimo land is one land, as far as Spence bay anyway. And if you want a division, I would advise you to stick to Baffin land, and that is also in the Resolute area.

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): You belong to the Oblate order?

Father LEMER: Yes.

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*): What is your point of view with respect to administration in the order? Do you think it would complicate your administration?

Father LEMER: No. The fact is that our organization is exactly one, and from the religious point of view, the point of view of our division goes along 102; but this has never been satisfactory because of Cambridge bay and Pelly bay, and that is why every day I am in radio contact with those fathers in the east.

Mr. TURNER (*Interpretation*): Your good advice should be sought in Rome.

Rev. LEMER (*Interpretation*): We have been asked our advice over the last 35 years but nothing has happened.

Mr. WATSON (*Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie*) (*Interpretation*): Did you say that the proposed division follows the ecclesiastical division of the territories?

Rev. LEMER (*Interpretation*): Yes, between Keewatin and the Mackenzie district, but when you look at the coast you have to include Gjoa Haven, Spence bay and the Eskimos who are to the east of Cambridge bay. When we were dealing here with the ecclesiastical division of the territories, we have considered that these settlements to the east should be included within the diocese on the Arctic shore.

Mr. TURNER (*Interpretation*): Why were the two dioceses originally divided in this way?

Rev. LEMER (*Interpretation*): It is a very old division. This was done even before there were missions on the Arctic shore. Everything was directed towards the north at that time and we merely followed the general motion.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any other questions?

Reverend Father, the committee is very grateful to you, and I think we will all agree if I offer you our thanks. The decisions which will be taken I hope, will satisfy all those points of view on which you have given us information.

Should we inquire as to the willingness of Judge Sissons, or his anxiousness, to testify tomorrow or on Wednesday? Our next meeting was officially called on Wednesday, but I suppose we should pay some attention to the wishes of our witnesses.

Judge SISSONS: I would like to be heard tomorrow, if possible.

The CHAIRMAN: The Chairman will try to induce the committee to hold a meeting tomorrow.

Mr. TURNER: Can the Clerk advise us what are the competing committees? There is a difficulty because of all the committees sitting at this late date, and we might have difficulty in forming a quorum.

Judge SISSONS: I am here; I am not going back.

The CHAIRMAN: Could you wait until Wednesday?

Mr. deWEERDT: I am at your disposition, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. TURNER: Are these two gentlemen the only witnesses we have?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, and we do not expect any others from the north. We will have to ask you to enjoy the capital a little bit longer and to be with us on Wednesday morning at nine o'clock.

Mr. RHEAUME: Are we not meeting tomorrow if we can get a quorum and if there is a room?

The CHAIRMAN: The Clerk says there is no room definitely, but I presume there are seldom more than 13 or 15 people at the meeting. We could possibly find a room suitable, and we would not need interpretation. I will ask the Clerk to try to locate a room large enough to accommodate those who are normally here. A meeting will be called at four o'clock tomorrow.

TUESDAY, December 17, 1963

The CHAIRMAN: Good afternoon gentlemen. I believe we now have a quorum. We may now proceed. Our first witness to be called is his hon. Judge Sissons. Would you come forward, sir, and make yourself comfortable here?

Gentlemen, Judge Sissons is the judge of the territorial court of the Northwest Territories and has been since 1955. His work, of course, necessitates much travelling in the Northwest Territories and I am quite sure that the members of this committee will appreciate knowing something of the points that the judge will bring to the attention of the committee.

Are there any comments?

Mr. TURNER: Mr. Chairman, I should like at the outset to repeat what I said at the time this committee considered the invitation which was extended at the insistence of the member for the Northwest Territories to testify before this committee. At the time the committee, following the representation of the member for the Northwest Territories, invited Judge Sissons, I took exception to calling a judge before a parliamentary committee which had to deal with political and administrative matters which do involve a difference of opinion and do involve potential controversy in the north, which is the very jurisdiction over which Mr. Justice Sissons, as chief of the territorial court, presides.

I did not vote against the motion at that time because I took the position that if the committee in its collective judgment wanted to hear as wide an expression of opinion as possible, then I would accede to that collective wish of the committee, although with reluctance, and as much as I look forward

possibly this afternoon to examining the judge, which, as he will admit, is unique in any lawyer's experience, I repeat the same reservations I had in respect of the appropriateness of this committee examining the chief judicial officer of the north in respect of matters affecting the two bills now before us which involve political and administrative consequences for the north.

I say that without any intent of disrespect to our witness. However, I place these remarks on the record because I feel we have an unusual situation in the appearance of Mr. Justice Sissons.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. Are there any further observations?

Mr. RHEAUME: Mr. Chairman, I should like to add to that statement. I agree it is unusual for a judge of a court to appear before a committee, but I think we are also dealing with a most unusual piece of legislation in that 50 per cent of this country has yet to enter confederation, so that the unusual aspects of the case are becoming more and more apparent with each witness we hear. For that reason I am happy that Mr. Turner recognizes the unusual elements and has agreed to the motion to hear Judge Sissons.

Mr. DOUCETT: This is also a very important matter, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any further comments?

Thank you, gentlemen.

I am happy that something has been said on the record concerning the unusual circumstances with which we are now faced. I can only say that I do appreciate the comments made by the members. Of course I trust that his honour will realize the situation as indicated briefly by the remarks of the members. I request that we proceed possibly in a wise fashion, and I am sure that the witness will make every effort to do the same. Perhaps the witness knows better than the Chairman that there are certain things that can be done in the face of this type of difficulty. Our committee is entitled to sit in camera, for instance. I do not see that there is any necessity in this regard.

Perhaps the members of this committee will accept any suggestions made by the witness in respect of matters being discussed which touch upon a domain which he feels he should not enter.

With those remarks which I have made simply to assist our witness, I would like now to invite Judge Sissons to make some general remarks, if he thinks that is appropriate at this time.

Hon. Mr. Justice John H. SISSONS (*Judge of the Territorial Court*): Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I am here because I was asked to appear before this committee. I can assure Mr. Turner that it is not embarrassing to me. I am not at all easily embarrassed I do not think that it could conceivably be of any embarrassment to the administration of justice in the Northwest Territories.

What I have to say will be confined to just one issue which I understand to be the crucial issue before this committee, and that is: what kind of a government should there be in the Northwest Territories; whether it should be along the lines of the two bills being studied by this committee, or whether it should be along the present lines, or some other line.

A number of side issues could be touched upon, in respect of which members might wish to examine me, but I want to make it clear that I have no intention of entering into any controversy on these side issues. I want to stick closely, and be allowed to stick closely, to that one issue which I feel is before this committee, and that is the constitutional issue in respect of the government of the Northwest Territories. I do not want to get away from that subject at all.

To add to what the Chairman has been kind enough to say about me, I should like to refer to this map I have on the wall. This is a map I keep pinned up in my office at home. I thought it would explain my circuits in the north and would explain the perspective I have in these matters. My perspective is, of course, that of an individual within the territories. I think one in the terri-

tories is bound to have a little different perspective from one from the outside. I thought also it would explain that I am of the north and have been of the north for a good many years.

When I was a practicing lawyer I practised in this area here in the Peace river country from 1929 for 25 years. I was a member for Peace river from 1940 to 1945. During that term I was, of course, and at all times, very interested in the development of the north.

Following my defeat in 1945 I was appointed a judge in southern Alberta, and was chief judge of the district court of southern Alberta for nine years. I was then asked to take on this job in the Northwest Territories, and I was very pleased and proud to do so. I have derived a great deal of interest and a great deal of pleasure from being the first judge of the Northwest Territories, and conceivably if these bills go through I will be the last judge of the territorial court of the Northwest Territories; for, of course, that court would cease to exist if these bills go through. If these bills go through there will be no territorial court of the Northwest Territories. I do not suppose anyone is very happy at their own funeral, and I will not feel particularly happy when the day arrives when I cease to be the judge of the Northwest Territories—but that is really an aside.

That is all I have to say by way of introduction in a preliminary way.

I want to say something about the historical background of the Northwest Territories, and I have to go back—as I have in a number of decided cases—to the royal proclamation of October, 1763. By this royal proclamation of October 7, 1763, cited in the statutes of Canada as the first of Canada's constitutional acts and documents, lands in the Northwest Territories were reserved to the Indians as their hunting grounds; and others were forbidden, on pain of royal displeasure, from purchasing or taking possession of any of the lands so reserved; and the proclamation did further strictly enjoin and require all persons whatever who had either wilfully or inadvertently seated themselves upon any such lands, forthwith to remove themselves from such settlements; and it was provided that if at any time the said Indians should be inclined to dispose of the said lands that purchases of the said lands could be made only by and in the name of the crown at some public meeting or assembly of the said Indians; and in case the lands should be within the limits of any proprietary government, they should be purchased only for the use and in the name of such proprietaries. Eskimos were considered as a tribe of Indians.

This royal proclamation has been often called the charter of Indian rights, but like many another charter it did not create any rights, but rather affirmed old rights. The Eskimos had their aboriginal rights through use and occupation from time immemorial. There is no treaty with the Eskimos; there never has been any attempt to negotiate a treaty, and there never has been a public meeting or assembly of the Eskimos in an endeavour to acquire their lands, and their rights to those lands have never been extinguished.

Section 146 of the British North America Act 1867 reads as follows:

146. It shall be lawful for the Queen, by and with the advice of Her Majesty's most honourable privy council... on address from the houses of the parliament of Canada to admit Rupert's land and the northwestern territory, or either of them, into the union, on such terms and conditions in each case as are in the address expressed, and as the Queen thinks fit to approve, subject to the provisions of this act.

An address was presented to Her Majesty the Queen from the Senate and House of Commons of the Dominion of Canada, signed by the Speaker of the Senate on December 17, 1867, and by the Speaker of the House of Commons on December 16, 1867.

This address which contains the terms and conditions upon which Rupert's land and the northwestern territory were admitted into the union reads as follows—and although I have set out in these notes of mine the different provisions in that address, I am only going to refer to one or two of those conditions. One of those conditions was:

That the welfare of a sparse and widely scattered population of British subjects of European origin, already inhabiting these remote and unorganized territories, would be materially enhanced by the formation therein of political institutions bearing analogy, as far as circumstances will admit, to those which exist in the several provinces of this dominion.

I want to stress that it is one of the conditions in that address that that territory on admission into the union would have political institutions bearing analogy to those which exist in the other provinces.

Then there is the further clause:

That in the event of Your Majesty's government agreeing to transfer to Canada the jurisdiction and control over the said region, the government and parliament of Canada will be ready to provide that the legal rights of any corporation, company or individual within the same shall be respected, and placed under the protection of courts of competent jurisdiction.

And this is very important:

And furthermore that, upon the transference of the territories in question to the Canadian government, the claims of the Indian tribes to compensation for lands required for purposes of settlement will be considered and settled in conformity with the equitable principles which have uniformly governed the British crown in its dealings with the aborigines.

This last condition has not been complied with so far as the Indians and Eskimos of the present Northwest Territories are concerned.

Rupert's Land Act 1868 provided power to accept surrender of all or any of the lands, territories, rights, privileges, liberties, franchises, powers and authorities of the Hudson's Bay Company within Rupert's land.

In the agreement between the delegates of Canada and the Hudson's Bay Company, it was agreed by Canada's delegates Joseph Cauchon, Speaker of the Senate, and James Cockburn, Speaker of the House of Commons:

That upon the transference of the territories in question to the Canadian government it will be our duty to make adequate provision for the protection of the Indian tribes whose interests and well being are involved in the transfer and we authorize and empower the governor in council to arrange any details that may be necessary to carry out the terms and conditions of the above agreement.

This was ratified by the Senate and House of Commons.

Resolved that upon the transference of the territories in question to the Canadian government, it will be the duty of the government to make adequate provision for the protection of the Indian tribes whose interests and well being are involved in the transfer.

I want to make it clear, of course, that when I say "Indian tribes", that of course includes Eskimos.

This pledged duty has not been performed in regard to the Indians and Eskimos of the Northwest Territories.

The temporary Government of Rupert's Land Act 1869 recited that it was expedient to make some temporary provision for the civil government of the territories until more permanent arrangements could be made, and provided for the temporary government of Rupert's land and of the Northwestern territory on admission to the union or Dominion of Canada, and provided that the said territories when admitted should be styled and known as the Northwest Territories.

It is also provided for the appointment of a lieutenant governor to administer the government under instructions from time to time given him by order in council. The Governor General might, with the advice of the Privy Council, constitute and appoint, by warrant under his sign manual, a council of not exceeding fifteen nor less than seven persons, to aid the lieutenant governor in the administration of affairs, with such powers as might from time to time be conferred upon them by order in council. It was provided that this act should continue in force until the end of the next session of parliament.

There was an order of Her Majesty in council on the 23rd day of June, 1870, admitting Rupert's Land and the North-Western Territory into the union "upon the terms and conditions set forth in the first hereinbefore recited address."

The Manitoba Act, 1870, provided for the organization of part of the said territories as a province to be called the province of Manitoba. Section 35 of the act provided that the lieutenant governor of Manitoba should be appointed by commission under the Great Seal of Canada as lieutenant governor of the Northwest Territories. Section 36 of the act provided that the temporary government of Rupert's Land Act, 1869, be re-enacted, extended and continued in force until the first day of January, 1871, and until the end of the session of parliament then next succeeding.

In December, 1872, Lieutenant Governor Morris of Manitoba was commissioned to act as lieutenant governor of the territories with a council of 11 members.

The "more permanent" form of government and administration set up in the Northwest Territories in 1872 was in accordance with the terms and conditions of the admission of the territories into the union and bore analogy to those which existed in the provinces.

The seat of government was in the territories.

There was a lieutenant governor appointed by the governor in council who held office during pleasure whose duty it was to administer the government under instructions from time to time given him by the governor in council or by the Secretary of State of Canada.

There was a legislative assembly composed at first of 26 members elected to represent the various electoral districts, with powers similar to those given to provincial legislatures. The legislative assembly should not adopt or pass any vote, resolution, address or bill for the appropriation of any part of the public revenue or of any tax or impost to any purpose that had not been first recommended to the assembly by message of the lieutenant governor in the session in which such vote, resolution, address or bill was passed.

There was an executive council to aid and advise in the government of the territories, and the persons who were to be members of the council were, from time to time, chosen and summoned by the lieutenant governor, and the members thereof might, from time to time, be removed by the lieutenant governor. By 36 Vict. C. 6, the membership of the council was increased to a maximum of 21 instead of 15, the minimum remaining at 7.

Members of the executive council were made the heads of and presided over the departments of government, consisting, at first, of (a) the office of

the executive council; (b) the department of the attorney general; (c) the department of the territorial secretary;

- (d) the Department of the treasury;
- (e) the Department of Public Works;
- (f) the Department of Agriculture;
- (g) the Department of public instruction;
- (h) the offices of the legislative assembly.

There was an order of Her Majesty in council, under date of the 31st day of July, 1880, admitting all British possessions and territories in North America and islands adjacent thereto into the union.

The British North America Act, 1886, provided that the parliament of Canada might from time to time make provisions for the representation in the Senate and the House of Commons of Canada, or in either of them, of any territories which for the time being form part of the Dominion of Canada, but are not included in any province thereof.

This was all in accord with British policy and sound constitutional principles of government; part of Canada's inheritance.

From the earliest days of colonial history British policy favoured the principle of local self-government.

Of necessity the crown's executive authority was lodged with officers, usually styled governors, resident from time to time in the respective colonies, and acting as a rule by and with the consent and advice of a local council.

Local assemblies were authorized by the earliest charters and governor's commissions.

When once the right to a local assembly had been bestowed upon a colony it could not be recalled otherwise than by Imperial legislation; for the crown in council could no longer legislate for the colony.

The right to self government was in the above manner bestowed upon the Northwest Territories by Imperial legislation and could be taken away only by Imperial legislation. It was never taken away. That right still exists.

Unfortunately, the right was suspended and remains suspended in the Yukon and the present Northwest Territories.

By order in council, dated the 16th day of August, 1897, there was established and set apart a judicial district in the Northwest Territories to be named and known as the "Yukon Judicial District", and the boundaries thereof were defined.

By the Yukon Territory Act, 1898, the Yukon Judicial District of the Northwest Territories was constituted and declared to be a separate territory under the name of the Yukon Territory, and the same should no longer form part of the Northwest Territories. There was a commissioner appointed by the governor in council as chief executive officer and he was to administer the territory under instructions from time to time given to him by the governor in council or the minister of the interior. The governor in council was to appoint a council to aid the commissioner in the administration of the territory. Each judge of the court should be ex officio a member of the council. The total number of members of the council, including the judges, should not exceed six.

In 1905 the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan were created out of the Northwest Territories. This transition from territory to province was easy. It would not be so easy to change the present Northwest Territories into a province or provinces at this time, however desirable that might be.

The Northwest Territories Amendment Act 1905 provided for the liquidation of the affairs of the old government of the Northwest Territories and the appointment of a commissioner who should exercise the executive powers formerly vested in the Lieutenant Governor or the lieutenant governor in

council. The commissioner should administer the government of the new Northwest Territories under instructions from time to time given by the governor in council or the minister of the interior. The governor in council might from time to time constitute and appoint a council of four to aid the commissioner in the administration of the territories. The supreme court of the Northwest Territories was disestablished. Colonial stipendiary magistrates were substituted. It was not until fifty years later that the territorial court of the Northwest Territories was established. That court would now be disestablished by the new proposal.

It appears that the government and administration provided for the Yukon and the Northwest Territories, by the Yukon Territory Act, 1898, and the Northwest Territories Amendment Act 1905, followed the precedent of the temporary government of Rupert's Land Act, 1869, and were presumably intended to be temporary. There was some justification for a temporary government. There was a gold rush to the Yukon and an emergency. Thousands were pouring into the area and they were a rough crowd. The Yukon was remote from the seat of government of the Northwest Territories. There were no highways, railways or airways. Everything was in a state of flux. It was necessary to establish immediately a stable local government for the maintenance of law and order.

The conditions which made a temporary government seem necessary or excusable in 1898 and in 1905 certainly no longer exist and "more permanent arrangements should be made".

The temporary government of Rupert's Land Act 1869 lasted for three years. The temporary government of the Yukon has lasted for 65 years and the temporary government of the Northwest Territories has lasted for a staggering 58 years.

There have been various changes in the Yukon Act and the Northwest Territories Act but none of these restored that measure of self-government which existed in the old Northwest Territories and which was envisioned for the Northwest Territories by the terms and conditions of the union.

It was inevitable that such a colonial administration over such a long period should mean the building up a huge and very powerful bureaucracy, more powerful than any transitory ministry. The present proposal would mean the sustaining and further development of that bureaucracy.

I have indicated certain conclusions in this memorandum which I will now present.

The terms and conditions upon which the Northwest Territories were admitted into Canada have not been complied with.

There have not been formed in the Northwest Territories "political institutions bearing analogy, as far as circumstances will admit, to those which exist in the several provinces of this dominion."

The government and parliament of Canada have not adequately provided "that the legal rights of any corporation, company or individual shall be respected, and placed under the protection of courts of competent jurisdiction".

Further, the claims of the Indian tribes for compensation for lands required for purposes of settlement have not "been considered and settled in conformity with the equitable principles which have uniformly governed the British crown in its dealings with the aborigines."

There was a treaty with the Indians of the Mackenzie district but this was not implemented and must be considered a dead letter.

There has been no treaty with the Eskimos and no relinquishment of the lands reserved to them as their hunting grounds by the royal proclamation of 1763. There is no Eskimo act and the Indian Act does not apply to Eskimos.

The time for provincial autonomy is probably still far off. It appears we are not ready for it and it is said we could not afford it. We are ready for and could afford "territorial" government along the lines laid down in 1872 which would be far less expensive than our present or proposed "colonial" government, and would be better in every way.

Key men from the department of northern affairs at Ottawa should be transferred to the territories and could be appointed to the executive council and to head and man the various departments.

Generally, those having to do with local northern administration and public service, whether of northern affairs, justice, public works, health and welfare, land titles, vital statistics or other departments, should all be where they belong—in the north—and at every man's door.

There should be no division of the Northwest Territories until at least provincial autonomy is feasible, as when the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan were formed. This could possibly be July 1, 1967.

Now is the time to straighten matters out in accord with old sound constitutional principles and fundamental rights and freedoms.

I conclude my statement with certain suggestions.

The recommendation of the council of the Northwest Territories that the parliament of Canada establish two new territories to replace the present Northwest Territories should not be accepted.

There should be set up in the present Northwest Territories government an administration along the general lines provided for in 1872 in the early Northwest Territories, bearing analogy, as far as circumstances will permit, to those which exist in the provinces of the dominion, and in accordance with the terms and conditions upon which Rupert's Land and Northwestern Territory were admitted into the union.

A new treaty should be negotiated with the Indians of the Mackenzie district.

There should be a treaty negotiated with the Eskimos, and an Eskimo act.

Of course the government which existed in 1876 consisted, as I have said, of a lieutenant governor, an executive council and a legislative assembly and the seat of government, of course, was in the territories.

I have nothing further to say except to make one further suggestion. In addition to what I have said here, these bills should be thrown out. I suggest there can only be an amendment to the Northwest Territories Act providing for the election of a council. I see there is reference in the bills to a council of nine for the Mackenzie area and seven for the new territory. I think there should be, therefore, an elected legislative assembly of perhaps 16 or 18 members, governing all of the territories. These members should be elected. This should be done now. Now is the time I think there should be a new Northwest Territories act passed, or perhaps at the next session, very much along the lines of the old Northwest Territories Act of 1872, providing for a form of government analogous to the provincial governments. I am willing, of course, to answer any questions on it. I am quite prepared to answer any questions, but I do not think I should be asked to go beyond this because I do not want to enter into any controversial matters.

Mr. RHEAUME: Mr. Chairman, Judge Sissons has suggested that the seat of government for the entire territories should be located in the Northwest Territories and that the administration be handled completely within the Northwest Territories. On the basis of his experience in the north, does he feel it would be possible to administer the various territorial government functions from a location within the Northwest Territories?

Judge SISSONS: I certainly do. We have administered justice in the Northwest Territories for the last eight years without any difficulty whatever. Twice

a year we take this circuit and sit at Dawson, Keno Hill, Fort Simpson, Yellowknife, Fort Reliance, Baker Lake, Daly, Coral Harbour, Cape Dorset, Frobisher bay, Broughton island, Pond inlet, Spence bay, Bathurst and Norman Wells, and sometimes we have to branch off from those places. We make that circuit twice a year. I can reach any point in the Northwest Territories in one day by chartered plane—any point. We do all our travelling by charter, of course, and although that may seem to be an expensive form of travel, the cost is going down all the time. We used to travel entirely by Otter until last year, and the rate by Otter was around \$1 per mile. We are now travelling by a two-engine aircraft, a Beachcraft, and with the greater speed our rate per mile is 70 cents, or something like that. We can handle anything. We take a trial in Frobisher bay and we can be there the next day, weather permitting, of course. All our travelling is subject to the weather conditions, but we can start anyway, although sometimes we have to go down—but that is all right. All that territory can be administered from any point in the Northwest Territories and can be administered much more efficiently than it can be administered from any outside point.

MR. TURNER: Mr. Chairman, if I may direct my questions directly to Mr. Justice Sissons I will do so.

I am somewhat confused by the constitutional series of acts that you have given us here.

JUDGE SISSONS: They are rather hard to dig out.

MR. TURNER: You mentioned the temporary Rupert's Act of 1869 and you mentioned the Northwest Territories Act of 1872, and you refer to the more permanent type of government that was set up in 1872.

JUDGE SISSONS: I think you will find an ordinance was passed when it was first set up, and then the act was passed later.

MR. TURNER: You referred to the Northwest Territories Act of 1872; and it is my information that the first statute applying to the Northwest Territories under that name was the statute of 1875. In the schedule of that statute there is no reference to any statute of 1872, and I am wondering whether you are not in effect referring to the act of 1875 rather than to the act of 1872.

JUDGE SISSONS: I do not think so. I dug it out.

MR. TURNER: I draw that to your attention.

JUDGE SISSONS: Is it material?

MR. TURNER: I will suggest to you why it is material. You are recommending that we should go back to the terms of the 1872 legislation, and it is my contention that there is no legislation of 1872.

JUDGE SISSONS: What difference does it make? I am referring to the kind of government we had when the provinces were formed in 1885, even if you take the act as it was then. That is the kind of government we had then. Is that not the kind of government we should have now? That is my point?

MR. TURNER: Let me suggest to you that there was no statute in 1872, and that your recommendation that there should be set up in the present Northwest Territories administration along the general lines of the act of 1872 does not mean anything unless you are referring to the statute of 1875, and if that is the statute to which you are referring I do not think that is the kind of government you want.

JUDGE SISSONS: Of course, it is not the sort of government I would like myself but it is certainly a lot better than our present government.

MR. TURNER: I would not have brought this up except that you are referring this committee, by way of recommendation, to the type of government the Northwest Territories had established in 1872. I suggest to you that there was

no such statute; that there were only two statutes; that the temporary act of Rupert's land of 1868 was replaced by the statute of 1875; that this statute of 1875 makes no reference to 1872. If you are referring to the statute of 1875, I want to read for your comments some of the provisions of it.

In section 3 of that statute it is stated:

That the governor general, with the advice of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada, may constitute and appoint such and so many persons from time to time, not exceeding in the whole five persons, of which number the stipendiary magistrates shall be members *ex officio*, to be a council to the governor.

In other words, under the 1875 act the government could appoint five councillors, of which three might judges. Is that the type of government you suggest for the Northwest Territories today?

Judge Sissons: No. I have suggested the type we should have.

Mr. TURNER: The statute also provides that:

the ordinance of the Northwest Territories may be disallowed and must be laid before parliament.

That is contained in subsection 8 of section 7. I do not think you would necessarily want that, would you, Mr. Justice Sissons?

Judge Sissons: I have set out the type of government that I want for the present Northwest Territories, that is the type of government we had in the old Northwest Territories before Alberta—that is 1905. Take 1905 as the base.

Mr. TURNER: You took the date 1872.

Judge Sissons: Yes, I know, but let us take 1905.

Mr. TURNER: I am suggesting to you that from 1875 you had this kind of government: you had an appointed council; you had the provision that a constituency could only be established if there were 1,000 square miles and 1,000 adults, which would mean that today you would reduce the elected representatives to three if you were to follow that statute; that in section 13(3) of that statute the only persons qualified to vote were bona fide male residents and householders of adult age, not being aliens and unenfranchised Indians, and they had to reside in the electoral district for at least 12 months. That is the type of government that was in the Northwest Territories from 1875.

Judge Sissons: I want the type of government that was developed from 1872 to 1905; that is the period with which I am best acquainted—just before 1905. If it was that type of government it would consist of the lieutenant governor, an executive council and a legislative assembly. I am not particularly concerned with whether I am right or wrong as to 1872 or 1875; you can change that. I want the kind of government we had in 1902.

Mr. TURNER: Mr. Justice Sissons, if you are backing away from your reference to the Northwest Territories Act of 1872, which was your recommendation to this committee, which is a statute which does not exist, and if you mean in effect legislation of 1875, which was the first Northwest Territories Act, then I suggest you have an appointed council; you have a governor in council with an appointed council which he has appointed, controlling all the funds; you have virtual disfranchisement of the Northwest Territories because of the restrictions in this act to which you refer; you have a statute which has been called "too hastily prepared" on the admission of the minister of the interior of the government of that day; you have the statute called "first of a series of piecemeal changes"—and I am referring to the book called "The Struggle for Responsible Government in the Northwest Territories 1870-1897" by L. H. Thomas.

Mr. RHEAUME: On a point of order, if the member for St. Lawrence-St. Georges is going to act as a lawyer, I insist upon being called as one of the members of the jury.

Mr. TURNER: We are all sitting as members of the jury, trying to evaluate the testimony; and I suggest the testimony of Mr. Justice Sissons is only worth as much as the constitutional validity of what he says.

Mr. RHEAUME: When you begin reading things about the disfranchised adult Indians—

Mr. TURNER: This is what the statute says.

Mr. RHEAUME: What we were discussing were the principles in the bill, the kind of government not the specific clauses and subclauses. This kind of reading into the record of specific clauses and subsections of the act is designed to draw a smokescreen across the path of what the witness is trying to tell this committee.

The CHAIRMAN: If I might make reference to the point of order raised, we are studying the subjects of the bills. We are not studying the principle of the bills necessarily, but rather the subjects of the bills, and these entail everything that these two bills will bring about. In discussing them we have heard evidence on the constitutional aspects this afternoon, as the witness indicated to the committee, and as the committee understands it; that is to say, bearing on the type of government which is suggested by the witness. I feel that the committee should be enlightened if possible, through questions by members of the committee.

The members of the committee may not agree with what is said, or with what the questions are based upon. I am very interested in the remarks of Mr. Justice Sissons, and I am also very interested, and I hope the committee is too, in questions which may bring about some enlightenment concerning what we are here for. I trust that the members will not squabble about the fitness of any question, unless such questions are absolutely out of order for reasons which the members may think are outside the order of reference which we have. But since we have spent many minutes this afternoon on constitutional matters surrounding possible types of government for the Northwest Territories, I believe that if any member has anything which he feels that the committee should be told, he may have the floor.

Mr. RHEAUME: My point was on the understanding of what the witness has said. He was discussing a form of government, and Mr. Turner started to read certain clauses and subclauses, and said that they were not in reference to what the witness had said.

Mr. TURNER: On a point of order, I admit that the questioning I am following is technical. I say that on the basis of the fact that the submission by the witness was a highly technical and constitutional one. Therefore it is open to me to examine him on that basis. The whole substance of his recommendations to this committee relate to the statute of 1872, and this he mentioned three or four times. But I submit to the committee that this statute does not exist.

Mr. RHEAUME: I agree, but I do not think everybody understands it.

Mr. TURNER: I do not know. We were referred to the provisions of a statute, which were quoted, yet that statute does not exist. The only statute to which the witness could have referred was the statute of 1875. I think I am entitled to ask questions based on that statute of 1875, and to ask if this is the type of government the witness wants in the Northwest Territories.

The CHAIRMAN: The Chair has disallowed the point of order. You may proceed.

Mr. TURNER: I suggest to you with respect that referring the committee to this historical background, to this alleged statute, does not bring us too far forward, because, as I say, the 1872 statute does not exist; and we have a very retrograde statute in the one of 1875.

Judge Sissons: I suggest that you ignore the reference to 1872. I am not particularly worried whether it be correct or incorrect. I want the same kind of government that we had in the old Northwest Territories just prior to its becoming—

Mr. TURNER: I shall read to you from page 78 of the book entitled "The Struggle for Responsible Government in the Northwest Territories 1870-1897" by Mr. L. H. Thomas, a leading student of this subject. I read as follows:

In one respect only did this act produce an immediate improvement in the status of the territorial government—ordinances did not require prior approval at Ottawa before coming into effect. On the whole the act was a conservative measure—too indefinite in many of its provisions to be a blueprint of future constitutional evolution.

If the committee wants to follow the evolution of government in the Northwest Territories they should refer to this book which is a leading work on the subject.

If the witness is to base his entire recommendations, as he does, on the legislation as it stood in the 1870's, we would not be too far advanced. I would like to refer to other parts of that 1872 statute. On the subject of who may vote, in section (13), subsection (3) the formation of electoral districts, they had to have a population of at least 1,000 inhabitants for an area not exceeding 1,000 square miles. This would limit the electoral districts to less than three. Basically it was government in the hands of the lieutenant governor appointed from Ottawa and who, in turn, appointed the council. I am interested in your comments, but I do not think this gets us anywhere.

Judge Sissons: Well, of course, that is quite proper. All I have in mind is the kind of representative government that we had when the west was being developed, and that of course we are not having. But we would have it if we had that kind of government with a legislative assembly, an executive council, and a lieutenant governor. We would then be away ahead of where we are now. But if we cannot have that, at least let us have an elected council anyway, and then let us wait until we have a government which is analogous to it. But certainly this government is not analogous to that of the provinces at the present time.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions?

Mr. DOUCETT: I would like to ask a question. Would the witness be in favour of a legislative council similar to those the provinces have? Is that right, a council which is elected and legislating in these terms?

Judge Sissons: Well, that would be a legislative assembly analogous to those of the provinces, and of course, with the difference here, at the present time, of an executive council.

Mr. DOUCETT: There would have to be some division of the territory to get constituencies or territories which the legislative council would represent.

Judge Sissons: There would be no difficulty but you cannot divide them over night.

Mr. DOUCETT: That is what I mean. I did not mean to say there would be difficulty.

Judge Sissons: There are constituencies for the elected council of the western Arctic all down "here", and in fact this new bill would create one for "here", and "here".

Mr. DOUCETT: For the whole territory?

Judge SISSONS: You can easily have your constituencies.

Mr. DOUCETT: The entire territory would be represented by elected representatives?

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions?

Mr. RHEAUME: I have a series of questions.

Mr. NIELSEN: Might I proceed on one point which is germane to Mr. Turner's questioning? In the text of "The Struggle for Responsible Government in the Northwest Territories" there is a description of the activities of a Mr. Haultain just before Manitoba became a province. It was largely through his efforts that a wholly elected legislative council was formed in what was to become Manitoba, with powers to introduce money bills and, in effect, with full legislative powers almost on all fours with the powers enjoyed under section 92 of the British North America Act by the provinces. Would you say we should be striving, in respect of the Northwest Territories, toward devising a formula similar to that which was devised just prior to the provincial status of Manitoba?

Judge SISSONS: Yes; I think we should. Provincial autonomy is what you have to develop. That is why I want some government now which would be a stepping stone toward provincial autonomy. This is the only way it can be done.

Mr. NIELSEN: At the time of Sir John A. Macdonald, when this legislation first was considered by the federal house, a formula was devised whereby if the population of the then territory of Assiniboine increased, so would the size of the wholly elected representative council. Would I be misinterpreting your view, Mr. Justice Sissons, if I say you would be in favour of developing such a formula now for the Northwest Territories so that by the time we reach a stage in population where a certain predetermined number of legislators is allowable under such a formula, let us say 21 as in Manitoba in those days, then at that point provincial status should come about.

Judge SISSONS: I do not want to enter that field because I would be getting away from the judicial field and into the political arena, and I might be offending on that. However, I want to see something which will be a stepping stone to provincial autonomy, and something which can move as rapidly as possible. The formula you mention may be the best. I do not wish to say whether it is or is not.

Mr. NIELSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. RHEAUME: Knowing Mr. Justice Sissons will refuse to comment on anything which he feels is getting into a controversial area, I would like to ask him these questions.

Judge SISSONS: I do not wish to step aside from controversy, but in this case I do not want to step into it deliberately. I am here in a peculiar situation. Usually I like a fight; but I kind of respect the company I am in.

Mr. RHEAUME: Would it be a fair statement of your belief, sir, that the proposed division of the Northwest Territories, as outlined in Bill C-83 and Bill C-84, would be a retrograde step?

Judge SISSONS: Decidedly retrograde. I might add, on the other hand, that I think the Yukon could make much more rapid progress toward autonomy than could the Northwest Territories.

Mr. RHEAUME: You mean the Mackenzie?

Judge SISSONS: No; the Yukon Territory. I think it has developed to such a degree now that it would be much more ready for provincial autonomy

than we are in the Northwest Territories. I think we have to go quite a little distance to catch up with the Yukon.

Mr. RHEAUME: From your study of this, in your mind, in respect of the Northwest Territories, is there any situation similar to what threatened the Yukon in 1905 to justify having received this form of government?

Judge Sissons: No. I think in 1905 it was just an additional rapid development there which necessitated a more official form of government.

Mr. NIELSEN: It was 1903.

Judge Sissons: Yes. There was a very rapid development there.

Mr. TURNER: I think it is 1903.

Mr. NIELSEN: Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions?

Mr. DINSDALE: Mr. Chairman, in my opinion, Mr. Justice Sissons' observations have been very helpful this afternoon because in Canada's historic past we have gone through many episodes similar to that which the Northwest Territories is passing through now. The example of Manitoba was mentioned in this respect and I do not think that is too happy a circumstance to quote here this afternoon. Manitoba came into confederation in 1870 and it was not until 1912 that our boundary problem was finally resolved. Also, at the time Manitoba came into confederation our total population was only 11,000. The evidence that has been given here has been disputed by Mr. Turner and I wonder if it could be clarified before we relieve Mr. Sissons from his duties as a witness here what type of government he has in mind.

Mr. Justice Sissons refers to the kind of government that we had in the Northwest Territories previous to 1905 and Mr. Turner seems to think that is not a very happy example to present to the committee. Mr. Chairman, could we resolve the misunderstanding in this respect?

The CHAIRMAN: Well, the Chair would like to be enlightened at least in respect of what type of government did exist before 1905. The witness has referred to it. I believe it was just after Alberta and Saskatchewan came into confederation.

Judge Sissons: It was just before that.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes. If I recall correctly, they came in in 1905. What type of government did exist at that time? Is it the type which Mr. Turner has referred to or is it another type which the witness has referred to? The Chair is not clear on it and I trust that perhaps other members of the committee are not clear in respect of this situation.

Judge Sissons: As I understand it, there was then a lieutenant governor, a legislative assembly and a legislative council, and he could appoint that council or bring people in from outside who would be members of both.

Mr. TURNER: He appointed three judges out of the five.

Judge Sissons: I think that came later.

Mr. TURNER: That was in the original act.

Judge Sissons: What year was that?

Mr. TURNER: 1875.

Judge Sissons: But, I am referring to a later period.

Mr. DINSDALE: Mr. Justice Sissons, was this not the kind of government that Manitoba had following 1870, a lieutenant governor with an elected council, and the lieutenant governor chose the executive council?

Judge Sissons: Yes, I think this was patterned after the Manitoba experience. This led from the Manitoba experience, and they followed that pretty well in the old Northwest Territories.

Mr. RHEAUME: Then, on your suggestion would not, in fact, the executive council be the heads of the various changes that are working in the north?

Judge Sissons: They were the heads of the department and then when they reached a certain stage you could have a ministry from the legislative assembly, and those named became the heads and the other fellows stepped down and became the deputy heads. My idea would be that at the start you take from Ottawa the heads of the various divisions of northern affairs, and they would be the heads, and then transfer these divisions to the Northwest Territories and make them into departments.

Mr. RHEAUME: But these people would not go.

Judge Sissons: Well, of course, those that would go would go and those that do not would not be lost because they would not be interested in developing the north.

Mr. TURNER: Mr. Chairman, I take a slight objection to what Mr. Rheaume said. We have heard witnesses say there have been outstanding career officers in northern affairs who go up north. I think if you counted the people you would find there would be a great number who would be willing to live in the north.

Mr. RHEAUME: But, none of these people you refer to would be heads.

Judge Sissons: I think there are good men in the northern affairs department in Ottawa who would be delighted to go and make their home up north, and that is the only type of men we want up there.

The CHAIRMAN: Could we settle the query of Mr. Dinsdale. The witness has given two types of view; he mentioned the type of government he would have in mind, but also he spent some time indicating to the committee that the Northwest Territories had a different type of government which was in line with the commitments made in the original arrangements with the British crown and that in some way the government of Canada has done away with that type of government, and he would like to see it revert. Is this so or not so? Did the Northwest Territories have a type of government that was mentioned or was it the province of Manitoba after coming into confederation? Where does the confusion lie?

I think much of your testimony was based on the constitutional fact that one type of government existed and then the government of this country just took it away, and I believe Mr. Justice Sissons would like to see it come back. Is that not the the gist of your testimony? Since a great part of the testimony was in that connection I think we should have this clarified and, perhaps, if not through him through another witness, so that the members of the committee will not be kept in the dark.

Mr. NIELSEN: With respect, Mr. Chairman, I have not heard what Mr. Justice Sissons has said on this point, but rather than saying the type of government the old Northwest Territories had was done away with I think perhaps a more accurate way of putting it would be that it has been subjected to encroachments over the years which has made serious inroads on what it used to be, and if Mr. Justice Sissons has been suggesting we now get back to the position that existed originally then this would be a sound proposition, in my view.

I would suggest to Judge Sissons the reason that these gradual encroachments were made were perhaps because of a lack of knowledge and interest in the north as now constituted by the Northwest Territories, by people living in southern Canada, by Canadians who thought of the north as a lot of snow and ice and something that was isolated in their minds. In addition to that, it may be because of a lack of any vociferous objection in the north of the federal government gradually assuming more and more all the responsibilities

not only of administering but of governing the north. Perhaps this is the chief reason these encroachments were allowed to creep up and erode the style of government. Would that be an accurate way of putting it?

Judge Sissons: I think that is sound.

Mr. ALKENBRACK: I have one or two questions to ask Mr. Justice Sissons. It does not seem to be clear that this legislative assembly ever did function or was elected. Did they actually hold elections during this period from roughly 1870 or 1875 until 1900? Did they actually hold elections up there and elect a legislative assembly?

Judge Sissons: Are you referring to the northwest?

Mr. ALKENBRACK: I am referring to the Northwest Territories in general.

Judge Sissons: You are referring to the old Northwest Territories?

Mr. ALKENBRACK: Yes.

Judge Sissons: They certainly had a legislative assembly and held elections there.

Mr. ALKENBRACK: I have been impressed well enough to believe that there was a lieutenant governor carrying out his duties, appointing his legislative council or executive council, which was similar to that which exists in the province of Quebec today, is that right?

Judge Sissons: Yes. There was a legislative assembly in what is now Alberta and Saskatchewan, and quite a number of the members were elected. A number of these old politicians were still members of the old legislative assembly when I first went west in 1912.

Mr. ALKENBRACK: Since 1905 the central government has taken what we can now call a retrograde step in depriving these citizens of that territory of those services?

Judge Sissons: You are referring to what is now the Northwest Territories?

Mr. ALKENBRACK: Yes.

Judge Sissons: There is no question about that.

Mr. ALKENBRACK: Would you say that we are just running a non-resident benevolent trap line up there?

Judge Sissons: I do not like to use a phrase like that. In fact, I am a little accustomed to using such hot phrases myself and I think that I better refrain from doing so here.

Mr. ALKENBRACK: A non-resident benevolent trap line is not a hot phrase. In your view, what is the opinion of a cross section of the citizens up there in respect of the change of the name of the territories?

Judge Sissons: I do not think anyone likes the suggested change from the old "Northwest Territories". This name is historical and traditional, and people have a lot of feeling for the old Northwest Territories.

Perhaps I should say a word or two about the Eskimos up there. The population is roughly of the proportion of seven Eskimos to five white men to four Indians, or something of that order. We have a lot to do with those Eskimos and Indians through the administration of justice. We have of course a jury system and when we go out to a trial, if the accused is an Eskimo or an Indian we always try to have Indians and Eskimos on the jury. They do serve on juries and they serve very well. Just last September I had a trial at Fort McPherson concerning an alleged attempted rape by an Indian boy. On that jury were three Indians, two white men and one Eskimo. When the jury reported back they had chosen one of the Indians as their foreman. They gave a sound verdict.

They take a prominent part and a very active part in the administration of justice. When we go out to these isolated points, no matter where it is, Eskimos all attend the courts sittings. They behave well and listen carefully. They understand what is taking place. Everything is interpreted for them. They take a very active part in the administration of justice. I feel that those Eskimos can take the same active part in respect of all administration, and I think they should be allowed the opportunity of doing so. We call upon them to act in this capacity, why should we not allow them to exercise the voting franchise and run their own affairs in this way?

Mr. ALKENBRACK: Sir, you have certain per capita records kept up there, no doubt, the same as in any province or municipality of the more settled parts of Canada. How do you find the incidence of crime per capita and the observance of law? Would you care to comment?

Judge Sissons: I could not; all that goes to Ottawa. We have no attorney general's department in the Northwest Territories. Our attorney general is the Attorney General of Canada. I do not think our per capita crime is as large as in other parts. I think we are more law abiding than in any other part of Canada.

Mr. RHEAUME: I preface my remarks by saying I know that the judge may decline to answer.

From your travels throughout the Northwest Territories in the last three years and the discussions you hold with community people including servants of the crown, would you say the implications of the bills to divide the Northwest Territories were well understood, partly understood or not understood at all by the bulk of the people who live in that country?

Judge Sissons: I would not like to answer. The information I have is from people who are civil servants, and they have said one thing to me and I am quite sure they have probably said the very opposite thing to their superiors. One could not expect anything else, you know. When you are travelling in those areas, you throw your sleeping bag down in the house, it is very informal; they are talking to you off the record, and they do not expect you to go ahead and tell their bosses what they have said. Of course, my travelling is very informal, as I say, and I make it a point of visiting all around and of listening to them. The Eskimos call me "Erkoktooyee"; that means the one who listens to things and to whom people tell things.

Mr. TURNER: Do you also have a pseudonym "The Walrus"?

Judge Sissons: I have a lot of them, but I like "Erkoktooyee" better than any of them, and I like the thought. My finest recollection is of when I go into one of those Arctic settlements and the plane circles round, the children yell "Erkoktooyee comes", and they come running down to the beach to meet the plane. I would rather have that than that they should yell, "The judge is coming" and run to the bush, you know. There is none of that in our country. I like the thought again when I have sentenced people that the clerk comes up and says, "This man would like to say something to you; is it all right?" I say, "Yes, sure it is all right." They come up to me and say, "I want to say that I have had a fair trial", and even when they have served for a few months they will say that it was fair. They are very fine people, you know, and I have a great deal of respect for them. I have great respect for their ability, too. I think they could take a better hand in the administration than could most white people, and that they could do a really good job in all fields of administration.

Mr. RHEAUME: May I go to a different line of questioning now, Mr. Chairman?

Judge Sissons in his evidence said that one of his recommendations was that there should be an Eskimo act, and I know the judge is aware that the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources Act, the act setting up the federal department of northern affairs, gives specific responsibility for the administration of Eskimos to the department of northern affairs.

To the judge's knowledge how is an Eskimo defined if there is in fact no Eskimo act? How does the department know who to help if there is in fact no definition of who is an Eskimo and who is not?

Judge Sissons: It is simply defined that that race of aborigines means Eskimo, whatever that means. The only reason I suggested there should be an Eskimo act is that the Indian Act does give certain rights and preserves certain rights. If there were an Eskimo act I would expect it would preserve certain rights.

Mr. NIELSEN: Has there never been a treaty with the Eskimos?

Judge Sissons: There has never been a treaty. Those lands up there are Eskimo lands, all those lands beyond the boundaries. Even under the royal proclamation, under the British law, they had aboriginal rights to that land. When you deal with these bills, you are dealing with Eskimo lands; they are not lands that have been relinquished to Canada. We have never had a treaty. There has been no attempt to negotiate a treaty with them. There has never been an assembly or a meeting called with Eskimos. The Indians gave up their rights to the land for certain considerations, but the Eskimos have not been asked to do that. We simply go ahead and take away their land indirectly.

Mr. TURNER: Are you suggesting all the statutes governing the Eskimos in the Northwest Territories are unconstitutional because of the failure to meet the terms of the address to the crown?

Judge Sissons: No, but I say that those things which interfere with the rights they have would be unconstitutional. I am speaking of such things as their hunting rights, their marriage customs, their adopting customs, and such customs as those. Of course, some of those customs are recognized in the Indian Act and they are preserved by that act.

Mr. DINSDALE: Was there not a decision by the Supreme Court of Canada, I believe it was in 1939, that Eskimos are Indians for certain purposes?

Judge Sissons: Yes, and in fact I have relied on that, to bring them within the royal proclamation of 1763. Chief Justice Duff held that, I think in 1939. I referred to that in some of my cases.

Mr. DINSDALE: The problem in this respect is that if there ever were an issue would the problems not be similar to those faced by the Metis at the time Manitoba became a province?

Judge Sissons: Yes.

Mr. DINSDALE: You do not think the results would be the same?

Judge Sissons: I hope not.

Mr. ALKENBRACK: Are there such things up there as local taxes, and the right to say that an Eskimo family holds land that they occupy and the house they live in and the buildings they have? Is there anything comparable to our municipal assessment in taxes up there?

Judge Sissons: There is a municipal division of northern affairs, and there is a land act.

Mr. ALKENBRACK: Are they assessed every year?

Judge Sissons: Not in the isolated areas, but in the larger communities they have developed them.

Mr. ALKENBRACK: But say on some of those remote northern shores, are there no taxes?

Judge Sissons: No. They have to pay income tax if they earn enough.

Mr. RHEAUME: They would indirectly pay certain forms of territorial tax, such as the sales tax on liquor, for example, or fuel oil. Would they pay a territorial tax on those items?

Judge Sissons: Yes.

Mr. ALKENBRACK: What laws would they resort to in case of a dispute between a couple of natives as to who owned what land?

Judge Sissons: There cannot be any dispute there. They simply build an igloo or put up a tent in the isolated spots. There is no question of ownership.

Mr. RHEAUME: If gold or a rich mineral were found under an Eskimo camp, would he have any legal protection other than the royal proclamation?

Judge Sissons: There might be very nice cases on that. There have been some in the United States, and there was one a couple of years ago where the Indians of Alaska brought action against the United States government and got a judgment regarding compensation for 20 million acres of land. There have been a lot of judgments there.

Mr. TURNER: Do you consider those judgments persuasive?

Judge Sissons: Yes, I consider them very persuasive. I hope it will be avoided. I am afraid time is running out on me or I might have some nice actions.

Mr. NIELSEN: The committee might be interested in a parallel in the Yukon where no treaty has been negotiated with the Indian people of the Yukon, particularly with respect to the proceeds of the Klondike gold rush.

Mr. TURNER: It would be pretty hard to execute it now.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions?

Mr. DINSDALE: Do you see any problem with respect to oil rights?

Mr. Sissons: I see possibilities.

Mr. TURNER: We should consider this as obiter.

The CHAIRMAN: If there are no further questions, it is my pleasure to thank you very much, Judge Sissons. Is Mr. de Weerdts here? I do not suppose we should start with Mr. de Weerdts at this time. Shall we sit tonight in the same room, or are the members committed elsewhere?

Mr. TURNER: I suggest we sit at nine o'clock tomorrow morning. Mr. de Weerdts does not have a plane until tomorrow night.

The CHAIRMAN: If we heard Mr. de Weerdts tomorrow morning would there be time enough?

Mr. TURNER: I do not think it would take more than two hours. Let us meet at 9.00 a.m.

The CHAIRMAN: Very well, the next meeting of the committee will be at nine o'clock tomorrow morning. Would the members please try to make it as close as possible to nine o'clock?

HOUSE OF COMMONS

First Session—Twenty-sixth Parliament

1963

STANDING COMMITTEE

ON

MINES, FORESTS AND WATERS

Chairman: OSIAS GODIN, Esq.

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AND EVIDENCE

No. 6

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1963

Respecting

BILL C-83 (Subject)

An Act to amend the Northwest Territories Act and to rename the said Territories, and to effect certain consequential changes in the Statute Law with respect thereto.

and BILL C-84 (Subject)

An Act respecting the Nunassiat Territory.

WITNESS:

Mr. Mark De Weerd, from Yellowknife, Northwest Territories.

ROGER DUHAMEL, F.R.S.C.
QUEEN'S PRINTER AND CONTROLLER OF STATIONERY
OTTAWA, 1964

STANDING COMMITTEE ON MINES, FORESTS AND WATERS

Chairman: Osias Godin, Esq.

Vice-Chairman: Grant Deachman, Esq.

and Messrs.

Alkenbrack
Asselin (*Richmond-
Wolfe*)
Berger
Blouin
Cyr
Deachman
Dinsdale
Doucett
Fleming (*Okanagan-
Revelstoke*)
Flemming (*Victoria-
Carleton*)
Gendron

Godin
Granger
Gray
Grégoire
Habel
Harley
Howard
Kindt
Korchinski
Laprise
Leboe
Leduc
Loney

Martin (*Timmins*)
Martineau
Mitchell
Moreau
Nielsen
Rhéaume
Rideout
Roxburgh
Simpson
Turner
Watson (*Châteauguay-
Huntingdon-Laprairie*)
—35.

(Quorum 10)

Maxime Guitard,
Clerk of the Committee.

REPORTS TO THE HOUSE

TUESDAY, November 26, 1963.

The Standing Committee on Mines, Forests and Waters has the honour to present the following as its

FIRST REPORT

Your Committee recommends:

1. That it be empowered to print such papers and evidence as may be ordered by the Committee, and that Standing Order 66 be suspended in relation thereto.
2. That it be granted leave to sit while the House is sitting.

Respectfully submitted,

OSIAS J. GODIN,
Chairman.

(Concurred in on November 26, 1963.)

FRIDAY, December 6, 1963.

The Standing Committee on Mines, Forests and Waters has the honour to present its

SECOND REPORT

Your Committee recommends that it be given new Terms of Reference empowering it to consider the question of the off-shore islands and the borders between the Provinces and the Northwest Territories.

Respectfully submitted,

OSIAS J. GODIN,
Chairman.

(Concurred in on Monday, December 9, 1963.)

FRIDAY, December 20, 1963.

The Standing Committee on Mines, Forests and Waters has the honour to present its

THIRD REPORT

Your Committee reports progress and recommends that it be reconstituted to continue its reference or references in the new session.

Your Committee held 16 meetings in the course of which it heard 13 witnesses.

A copy of the Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence (Issues 1 to 6 inclusive) is appended.

Respectfully submitted,

OSIAS J. GODIN,
Chairman.

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY, December 18, 1963.

(15)

The Standing Committee on Mines, Forests and Waters met at 10:25 o'clock a.m. this day. The Chairman, Mr. Osias J. Godin, presided.

Members present: Messrs. Alkenbrack, Dinsdale, Flemming (Victoria-Carleton), Godin, Habel, Leduc, Mitchell, Rhéaume, Roxburgh, Simpson, Turner.—11.

In attendance: Mr. Mark de Weerdt from Yellowknife, Northwest Territories.

The Committee resumed consideration of Bills C-83 and C-84.

The Chairman invited the witness to read a prepared statement and the witness was thoroughly questioned.

His examination being completed, Mr. Mark de Weerdt retired. The Chairman thanked him for his appearance.

On motion of Mr. Simpson, seconded by Mr. Rhéaume,

Resolved,—That the Committee pay the reasonable living and travelling expenses of the witness, Mr. Mark de Weerdt.

Moved by Mr. Turner, seconded by Mr. Dinsdale,

Resolved,—That the Chairman, on behalf of the Committee, report progress to the House of Commons and recommend to the House that the Committee be reconvened to continue its reference or references in the new session.

At 11:33 o'clock a.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Maxime Guitard,
Clerk of the Committee.

EVIDENCE

WEDNESDAY, December 18, 1963.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, we now have a quorum.

Mr. ALKENBRACK: Mr. Chairman, I should like to speak on a point of privilege. Yesterday at the meeting of this committee Mr. Turner—I do not know whether he was listening to the echoes of his own volubility or not—in my estimation was quite deliberately frivolous and abusive with Mr. Justice Sissons. The point that he made was that there was no legislation before 1875. Now, I have the legislation which Judge Sissons referred to here. It is the Senate bill here, in the *Journals* of the Senate, volume IV, in the year 1871. I refer to Bill B,—apparently they were simply lettered in those days—an act to make further provision for the government of the Northwest Territories. On Thursday, March 2, 1871, page 40, the bill was introduced by Mr. Campbell, and read for the first time. On page 44, it was read for the second time. On page 50, it was reported with amendments, and the amendments were read in the order of consideration. On page 54, the amendments were read, passed and sent to the House of Commons. On page 141, the bill was agreed to by the House of Commons.

I do not want to take up any more of our valuable time—here is the copy of the bill.

In my estimation our learned witness was correct. I recall he mentioned the date in the legislation of 1870.

Mr. TURNER: It is 1872. The record will bear me out. He referred to the Northwest Territories Act of 1872 and I challenge my friend to show me that act.

Mr. ALKENBRACK: You claimed there was no legislation.

Mr. TURNER: I said that there was temporary legislation of 1869—Rupert's Land Act—but the first Northwest Territories Act was in 1875, and that was the first general legislation covering the territories in those terms. I would be prepared to introduce evidence from the Department of Justice after Christmas to establish it. I would hope, however, that we would not belabour that point at the moment so that we can proceed with hearing the witness.

Mr. ALKENBRACK: I am not belabouring it; I am proving to you that you were not correct in your unneeded abuse of the witness.

The CHAIRMAN: It would be simple to have an expert on the laws of the Northwest Territories come here to give the committee, if required at a later date, a full enlightenment as to what the laws are.

Mr. RHÉAUME: We may have the Minister of Justice after Christmas and he may testify before us.

Mr. TURNER: On this question of privilege, I would say that I object to the term "abusive". The learned judge introduced evidence that he has alleged to be constitutional and I was perfectly within my rights to cross-examine him on that basis, and someone has yet to produce a statute of 1872 entitled the Northwest Territories Act which states what Mr. Justice Sissons alleged it did state. That is the limit of what I want to say now, but I would be prepared to stand by on this until after Christmas.

Mr. ALKENBRACK: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, here is what the bill states by sections.

Appointment and functions of lieutenant governor. Power to him to make laws.

The second is:

Proviso.

Then the next one is:

Instructions to lieutenant governor.

The next one:

Appointment of council to lieutenant governor.

The next one:

Existing laws to remain in force.

The next one:

Public officers to retain offices.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you, but I believe the committee understands the difficulty. As far as the evidence is concerned, there is an entanglement concerning the laws as they may have existed in the last century. I believe that if we are reconstituted in the next session we could then hear, if necessary, evidence on this.

We should now hear Mr. de Weerdts as he has to catch a plane tonight to return to the Northwest Territories.

Mr. SIMPSON: I do not want to hold this up any longer but some mention was made here that this might come up again after Christmas. If we determine that the judge was not correct in his evidence, I would suggest that since he has gone back up north we should give him an opportunity to tell us where he found this. If someone said there is no legislation on this matter, and the judge had made reference to this legislation, I do not doubt the judge could produce this evidence if he were given an opportunity. We cannot sit here and decide whether he was right or wrong without giving him an opportunity to speak on this.

The CHAIRMAN: We will proceed with the best evidence available. If there is a rebuttal to whatever evidence we may hear, it may come from other persons than the judge himself, but if the judge is required we can discuss that. The committee is entitled to the best evidence available.

Mr. SIMPSON: It does not matter to me.

The CHAIRMAN: I now invite Mr. de Weerdts to make a statement to the committee.

Mr. M. M. DE WEERDT (*West Baffin Eskimo Co-Operative Limited*): Thank you, sir. Gentlemen, my task here today is to represent the interests of West Baffin Eskimo Co-operative Limited, as instructed by Pingwartok, president of that organization.

He has sent me this telegram. It is headed "extra rush, Cape Dorset", addressed to me in Yellowknife:

Please be advised that we are most concerned over possible changes in the administration of laws pertaining to Eskimo rights and customs in particular regarding game that may occur as a result of proposed territorial divisions. We would request that you speak on our behalf to those people proposing this territorial division—signed Pingwartok, president, West Baffin Co-operative Limited.

Before I proceed, let me introduce myself and explain a few relevant facts concerning the co-operative. I have been solicitor to the co-operative since 1961 and an honorary member of it. Since I anticipate some questioning later, I might as well tell you that I live at Yellowknife, the very heart of present development in the Northwest Territories; my family and I are settled there, I have my offices there in partnership with Mr. David Searle, whom you heard

earlier on behalf of the Yellowknife board of trade. I travelled throughout the territories during my five years in law practice there, and there is hardly a settlement that I have not visited on one or on many occasions.

If it will assist the committee to weigh my words, I will add that my firm acts as solicitors for many and diverse interests throughout the Northwest Territories, be they small or large, both lonely and seemingly insignificant individuals and substantial corporations. We are in touch therefore with a wide cross section of public opinion in that country. We have the almost unique distinction, together with the survey parties and the politicians, of being a small group who travel right around the country and visit pretty well every settlement. During my years of travel there I have seen tremendous changes take place. Venturing a personal opinion I may say that most of it is beneficial; it has been a remarkable change, not just a physical change, not just a matter of buildings, but a change in the attitude of the people, the people who live there. It seems to me that the north is waking up to its potentialities and that Canada, from my contacts with the south, is likewise waking up to what we must do to develop that country and put it to work.

Bills C-83 and C-84 spring, I suggest, from this recognition that this is a time for a change, a change of a kind which will assist the development, both economic and political, and from that aspect the bills are to be welcomed. The north, it seems to me, has never had such a wonderful opportunity to speak up and be heard—and I say that with all due respect for our territorial council of recent years—because your committee and this house are now giving us in the north the very thing we have most desired: a chance to have a real say in our own affairs.

It is therefore with a personal sense of gratitude and respect for the historic nature of the occasion that I appear here today.

West Baffin Eskimo Co-operative Limited is a leading example of artistic, social, industrial and commercial progress among the Eskimos. It is honoured by the patronage of His Excellency the Governor General, owes its start to the pioneering work of the Canadian Handicraft Guild, particularly to the Hon. Senator Molson of the guild, and its success is widely acclaimed, being due to many more than I can name, though these would be headed by Mr. and Mrs. James Houston who have lived there for years and played a very important part in its development, and the present officers led by Pingwartok, supported by such eminent artists as Oshaweetok, the master craftsman who was primarily responsible for fashioning the territorial mace and for the beautiful ivory and stone figure presented to Her Majesty the Queen in 1961, not to forget the generous assistance of officials of the federal department, particularly the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources, which has done a great deal to launch the co-operative—it is now independent of the department and it appears to be destined for continued success.

The co-operative has been followed by a number of others. The whole movement, of which West Baffin Co-operative Limited is the leading exponent, I venture to suggest, has done more for the Eskimo people these last few years than anything else to maintain their strong sense of identity, of worth and of dignity as individual persons and as a people; one of the original and most distinctive people of Canada.

The co-operative combines in itself the attributes of a municipal council, a chamber of commerce and an adult education association, a trade union and a major corporate employer. It is the major social force in the community, barring perhaps the churches and the government.

It is therefore with gratitude and a sense of high purpose that I convey the thanks of the people to this parliament for this opportunity to appear, and more than that for the federal franchise which was granted to them in 1962.

The first point which I would like to deal with arises from the language in Bill C-84 which is most closely directed and obviously affects the rights and customs of the people I am here to represent, the Eskimos of Cape Dorset and its environs. I refer to clauses 15 and 20. Clause 15 restricts the legislative powers of the territorial council with respect to game preservation; but we should note that the restriction is qualified by subclause (3) which, in effect, permits such legislation with the intention of:

Restricting or prohibiting Indians or Eskimos from hunting for food, on unoccupied crown lands... game declared by the governor in council to be game in danger of becoming extinct.

The effect of these provisions, in my opinion, is such that hunting may be very seriously restricted by the territorial legislation passed before or concurrently with such a declaration by order in council that certain game is in danger of becoming extinct. This, to my mind, is no more than a step, but a most serious step in the eyes of the Eskimos towards government by order in council with which we have had some experience in our history.

It is my respectful submission that game preservation should, so far as restrictions upon hunting are concerned, be the subject of direct and explicit legislation, territorial or federal—preferably territorial—for reasons I shall come to, and that it should not become subject to restriction or prohibition by order in council.

It has not been unknown to have orders in council go through with somewhat less than the scrutiny given to a bill, certainly a bill affecting the livelihood and culture of people such as the Eskimos, and I suggest that you will wish to give serious thought to the implications of this clause for that reason. We have today a number of such declarations on the books concerning the proposed extinction of certain species; these declarations have been made by order in council. I think that is enough to say on that subject.

It has been mentioned to you earlier here that clause 15 of Bill C-84 is no more than a re-enactment of that 1960 legislation. I think clause 20 is also. I will just read clause 20, if I may. Clause 15 is somewhat more complex. Clause 20 simply says:

All laws of general application in force in the territory are, except where otherwise provided, applicable to and in respect of Eskimos in the territory.

I ask you to mark well, gentlemen, that this legislation—passed originally in 1960 and which is on the books today—was passed at a time when there was no member of parliament for the eastern Arctic.

I cannot imagine that a member who had the interest of the people there in mind—for it requires that degree of awareness that only direct and close knowledge of conditions can bring—could have allowed this legislation to pass without protest. Yet, that virtually is what happened.

The legislation which passed in 1960 has been questioned by the territorial court as to its effectiveness. I merely mention that. It may—thank heaven—legally be ineffective. My question is not in respect of its legality, but in respect of its propriety, its wisdom, its effects on the constitution if permitted to stand and, in respect of what it is doing to the Eskimo people, particularly with regard to what it is doing to their view of us and of our laws and of our concept of Canadian sovereignty in the Arctic. I submit that the legislation does not do this house or the laws of Canada credit in the eyes of the Eskimo.

I might refer to an article in the Canadian army *Journal* published in 1960. It is a prize essay by Major Dominico. This was an essay on the strategic value of the Canadian Arctic pointing out that in some future time it might be a

battleground between the two powers. I suggest that the way the Eskimo looks at us could have an importance from the point of view of national defence; this is something not to be ignored.

The evolution of our law from custom is not yet by any means complete. We operate institutions such as this House of Commons under statute, under regulations, under practices and procedures; but whatever the form, essentially this is done by consensus, by a crystallization of views, of habit, and of custom going back to the earliest gatherings together of people for consultation, law making and executive decision at the highest level. The sovereign, in the very words of the coronation oath, is sworn to uphold both the laws and the customs of the people of all Canada. Custom is a vital element for us in daily life just as it is for the Eskimos.

The territorial court, following English precedent, has upheld the validity of Eskimo customs in the eyes of the law. This has been done in the teeth of official departmental opposition; but the decision stands and will stand for time immemorial, except so far as it may be changed by due process of law.

I suggest that clause 20 is an attempt to overrule or set aside those judicial decisions of our country which uphold the validity of Eskimo customary marriage and adoption. Regardless of that, and of the effect at law of the provisions of clause 20, I submit that it ultimately will prove to be pernicious for the due administration of justice in the Arctic, and that it is in fact nothing but an attempt, in vague general terms which do not disclose the interests of the Eskimos which would be deeply affected, to circumvent the coronation oath of the sovereign, and to restrict the judiciary in the exercise of their office in accordance with ancient precedent and enlightened principles.

On behalf of the West Baffin Eskimo Co-operative Limited I must, therefore, respectfully, but with all the force I can give to its emphasis, submit that bill C-84 should stand condemned as an unwarranted attempt to legalize the wholesale invasion of the Arctic by a method such as this of—I was going to say bureaucracy; but I do not know whether that is a very helpful term—but it did arouse the feeling in many that it does not show proper respect for the Eskimo peoples' rights and customs.

Before dealing with the other clauses, may I presume a little upon you by referring to two documents which we, as Canadians, have wholeheartedly endorsed; some say we merely pay lip service to them, but I do not agree—at least I hope I do not have to. I refer, firstly, to the universal declaration of human rights and, secondly, the Canadian bill of rights. I know the latter may be controversial; but I ask you to take note of the nature of that controversy—it is recent legislation—to ignore it, and to note well that the parliament of Canada gave the measure unanimous approval when it came to the vote. Whatever the motives for controversy, therefore, I feel I may refer to this document.

The universal declaration is worth reading in its entirety, of course, but I am aware you already are acquainted with it quite fully and that I need only perhaps emphasize the more immediately relevant provisions. I, therefore, read to you the preamble and one or two of the articles. I think the preamble gives certain point to the articles which would be missed if I did not refer to it. I have here a handy copy of this declaration put out by the Department of Labour entitled "Human Rights in Canada". On page 3 it states:

Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the

advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people,

Whereas it is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebelling against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law.

Whereas it is essential to promote the development of friendly relations between nations,

Whereas the peoples of the United Nations have in the charter reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and have determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

Whereas member states have pledged themselves to achieve, in co-operation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Whereas a common understanding of these rights and freedoms is of the greatest importance for the full realization of this pledge,
Now, therefore,

The General Assembly
proclaims

This universal declaration of human rights as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance, both among the peoples of member states themselves and among the peoples of territories under their jurisdiction.

Article 1:

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.
Then there is some more.

Article 2:

Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race—
And so on.

Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs—

Article 6:

Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

Article 7:

All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this declaration...

Article 15:

(1) Everyone has the right to a nationality.

(2) No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality.

Article 20:

(1) Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.

The next article is number 21 which, I think, would be of real interest to you gentlemen. It reads as follows:

Article 21 (1), Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country directly or through freely chosen representatives. (2) Everyone has the right of equal access to public service in his country. (3) The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.

This is a matter of great importance in some parts of the world in these days.

I continue:

Article 22. Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realization, through national effort and international co-operation and in accordance with the organization and resources of each state, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality.

Article 28. Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this declaration can be fully realized.

Article 29 (1). Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible. (2) In the exercise of his rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society.

Article 30. Nothing in this declaration may be interpreted as implying for any state, group or person any rights to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth herein.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, for bearing with me.

If I could just add this; under the Canadian bill of rights, which I shall not refer to, we have essentially the same principles and as you know, that legislation was passed by this house in 1960. It is a coincidence that that is the same year as these clauses 15 to 20 reached the statute books; they are now on the books. If I could just add a little comment here and say truly, the left hand knoweth not what the right hand doeth. You will notice that my friends in the West Baffin Eskimo Co-operative are not so entirely sophisticated as to confine themselves in their telegram here to the way in which the law may be changed under Bill C-84; they are also concerned with its administration. I read, in part:

Please be advised that we are most concerned over possible changes in the administration of laws....

I would say they are essentially concerned over the uncertainty produced by their ignorance of what is intended, and I make no bones about this; I have not been able to get in there since last spring and I have not had an opportunity to advise them.

You people have been criticized in the press for proceeding too slowly; as far as the Arctic is concerned you are proceeding much too quickly with this legislation for us to have an opportunity to get a hold of it, digest and discuss it, and to tell each member about it. To give you an example of this,

I bumped into Father Lemer on the airplane coming down here. I would like to have had a chance to talk to him about this situation, but that was the first time I had seen Father Lemer for over a year. Our communications set-up and so on are not conducive to rapid communication across the Arctic at the present time, but that does not mean to say it could not be remedied.

However, that is the state of affairs at the present time. Hence, there is a tremendous degree of ignorance in respect of these bills and what is intended here. As I say, I have travelled about and some of us did hear there was a proposal to divide but we never took it very seriously. That may sound contemptuous but when and where we hear about it varies to a great extent; sometimes the council is sitting at Cape Dorset or Resolute Bay or even in Ottawa, and to us in Yellowknife it is the same thing at the present time. We are not too well informed. The Eskimos call us *aperksooktee*, meaning one who asks questions.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. de WEERDT: As a result of this, I have asked people as casually as I can with as little intent to arouse any particular response what they thought about this division, and the response I have had usually was a puzzled expression. People say: division; yes, I have heard about that. And, then they say: I guess our taxes will go up, whatever happens. That is about as much as anyone cares to say about division, at least the ones I have spoken to. I can count on the fingers of one hand people who have said to me that they think division might be of some benefit, and those people are fairly well convinced of that; in respect of the remainder it is a negative response, a strong negative response, or simply a puzzled expression showing that they do not know what it is all about.

As I read this telegram—and I admit I am putting my own intrepitation on it—to me it really means that the Eskimos are not anxious to see the court changed, nor should its jurisdiction be restricted or interfered with in any way.

I could tell a little story which might help you to understand their feelings in this connection. I was on the banks of the Mackenzie river at Aklavik a year ago talking to an old man. I asked him how are things now compared to what they used to be, and he said to me: "Well, in the old days there was one boss and if you had any troubles or anything had to be done you would see that person, but nowadays there are too many bosses."

As I understand it, under this legislation there is a proposal that we have ex officio judges from the provinces of Ontario and Manitoba, eminently distinguished judges, but a total of approximately 40 in all and, with the very very greatest respect, I suggested that the comment of that Indian may be applied to that rather excessive number of judges for such a small number of people.

There are a little too many bosses, to use the words of the average Indian or Eskimo. It is a great help to these people to identify the person, to know him year after year and to feel that here is a solid institution, something with which we are familiar, and here is the person who runs it; we know him and his quirks or his attitudes, we can have confidence in him. I suggest that if a lot of strangers flock in and out to administer justice this will have the effect of diminishing the confidence which the Eskimo people will have in that institution. Also, there is the power given to these judges to sit beyond the territories. From the Eskimo point of view, taking into consideration their rights and customs, I do not think they would think well of it if it was brought to his attention that a judge would come into the territories from outside, when they already have a perfectly good court within the territory. It is necessary

that justice must not only be done, in reference to the territories, but it must be manifestly seen to be done. The details of these bills destroy our confidence in their entire structure and policy.

There is another point here on which I feel I should speak. It is a provision in both the universal declaration and the bill of rights, which stresses that no one shall be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. I must ask you gentlemen what you would say if from among your constituents there was a prisoner in a penitentiary who was sent, let us say, to Alexandra Fiord to suffer confinement in the unusual, for him, surroundings there, being obliged to eat raw meat and live in sub zero temperatures, and denied contact with anyone speaking his own language. Would that not be cruel, inhuman and degrading? For the Eskimo, confinement in the south is just the same thing. This is a change of environment for him. There is a change in the noise level, temperature, humidity, diet, absence of contact with his own kind in his own language, not to mention utter and complete loneliness in that subhuman atmosphere so foreign to him. What else is it but cruel, inhuman and degrading to us all? Now, there may be some Eskimos who have had contact with the whites and who have eaten white food; for them it is not going to be so bad. I heard of a case at Frobisher bay where a young fellow enjoyed going down to Burritt's Rapids and he did his best to get a return ticket. However, I think that is an exception rather than the rule. While it may become rapidly more and more the case there are still enough Eskimos who look at it in an entirely different way.

I mentioned to the Chairman earlier this morning we had a pretty primitive level and I do not think that the situation should arise where a person is charged with manslaughter or some other serious offense that there should be the possibility that a judge from outside, counsel from outside and interpreters from Ottawa who have been cut off from the local environments for some years, will come in and go through the proceedings, as a result of which this person could go to the penitentiary for life. Okkarlik was convicted of manslaughter in 1954 or 1955 somewhere in the Hudson bay area. He went to Stoney Mountain penitentiary. I think he received a five year sentence. After a couple of years they were afraid he was going to die while being held there and they sent him back into the Northwest Territories. The only answer for this—and I know the department is working on it—is an institution in the territories. However, I suggest there are a lot of other things we need just as much right now in the territories.

I hope I will not be keeping you too much longer, gentlemen, but I wish to say that, given certain basic constitutional changes, certain basic facilities of the government, we are not asking for provincial status or all the things that we may yet be entitled to get; we are asking for the basic minimum. I must admit that real improvements can, at the instance and by the consent of those directly affected and concerned, be made. I suggest respectfully that it is doubtful if anyone from the north was really consulted on them. I know that a lot of work went into these bills but they do not represent improvements. They deny what has been given already in terms of customs and rights and, I suggest, they expose the rather precarious nature of Canadian sovereignty in the Arctic. I think it is a point which you will wish to consider very carefully; it is one of national interest with which you must be vitally concerned. It is a matter of what meaning should be symbolized by our flag, and we have had a lot of discussion about flags. What is symbolized by the flag, I suggest, is perhaps more important than the flag itself. Canadian sovereignty in the provinces is polarized between the provincial and federal aspects. There is a balance, a tension, a healthy dynamism in this polarization. We miss it in the north. We are the less Canadian for lack of it. We are, in this respect, deprived of problems, I know, but also of that healthy interaction which stimulates real growth.

That is what we are looking at, real growth and development. Development, after all, is our greatest need, both economically and politically, now and to-morrow.

Canadian sovereignty and citizenship suffer from certain other aspects of our delayed constitutional development. The lateness with which we have achieved the franchise, federal and territorial, the lack of territorial vote in the east to this very day, all these leave us with a sense that we are, and are regarded as, nothing more than second class citizens, paying close to a first class fare, perhaps, but the fare is a secondary matter when men have given their life blood for the principles I have earlier referred to.

So, I come to this conclusion. Without a suitable judicial administration, somewhat as we have, not as proposed by these bills, we are in danger of losing the protection of the customs and rights which the constitution, and the courts and the law should preserve. Without a decent territorial constitution—and I suggest that does require a fully elective council developing towards responsible self-government, I am not suggesting we should have a cabinet government in that council right away—we are in danger of remaining in bondage as second class citizens for an unpredictable and too long a period, however short it might be.

The whole principle of these bills, of continued colonial paternalism, negates fundamental rights and freedoms which we do not merely request but demand as Canadian citizens. We expect you will join with us in this demand, and we sincerely thank you for listening to us express it.

The concerns of the West Baffin Eskimo Co-operative and the other Eskimos are real and pressing; and I suggest you will not wish to ignore them. The status quo is not enough. These bills may camouflage the fact, but it appears to us that their apparent purpose is to maintain the status quo, an inferior status which is incompatible with the dignity and rights of free Canadians, which is unworthy of the Canadian flag—however coloured, striped or bespangled—and a blot upon the individual consciences of each and every one of us.

If the Nunassiat council is intended to be some sort of a school for the Eskimos to teach them the processes of democracy, they will reject the democracy as a fraud and a sham, because the intended appointive domination, foreign quorum, restricted powers, and uncertain future of this institution will quickly expose it as nothing but a sham. The world's richest iron deposit is located on the north Baffin island which will be outside the proposed electoral districts. I am, of course, reminded that this can be changed; but keep this in mind when you look at this legislation.

Under the present set-up, the mine and the miners will not be represented at the new council table; that is a rather extraordinary situation. I suggest, gentlemen, that—as I know you are doing—you give this a lot of further consideration. I would hope that all or some of you could come up north and see if for yourselves, and do it in such a way that you will break through the barrier and really get at the grass roots. Then, I suggest, you might have the answer.

I was speaking to a member of this committee the other night. He very earnestly expressed to me the thought "what can we do that is best for the Eskimo, for the people up there?" That is what we have to find out. From the way he was talking I could not help but say—and I hope I did so in all modesty—"why is it that it is we who decide all these things for these people; why could they not decide a lot of these things for themselves?". Therefore, my plea to you is, I suggest an elected council to give them that opportunity to decide many things; not all things; not the disposition of the

nation's resources; not that, not yet; but a lot of important things. This is a way in which they can learn, as a previous witness said, how to grow into full stature as Canadians.

Thank you very much.

Mr. TURNER: I have three short questions. May I look at that telegram. The telegram constitutes your terms of reference and you preface that by saying you had not been able to get into Cape Dorset for a year.

Mr. de WEERDT: Not since springtime.

Mr. TURNER: So you have had no personal conversation with the co-operative about this in the meantime?

Mr. de WEERDT: About the text of these bills. I have had some conversation about the existing legislation which affects the life and customs of the Eskimos.

Mr. TURNER: But in so far as the text of these bills is concerned, you have not had an opportunity to get specific instructions from the co-operative?

Mr. de WEERDT: No, sir.

Mr. TURNER: This mandate really is limited to the terms of this telegram.

Mr. de WEERDT: And my original instructions as solicitor in 1961.

Mr. TURNER: I understand you are general solicitor for the co-operative?

Mr. de WEERDT: Yes.

Mr. TURNER: But so far as this hearing is concerned, your mandate is limited to the terms of this telegram, as I understand it. This is your only communication?

Mr. de WEERDT: That is quite true.

Mr. TURNER: The telegram reads:

Please be advised that we are most concerned over possible changes in the administration of laws pertaining to Eskimo rights and customs in particular regarding game that may occur as a result of proposed territorial division. We would request that you speak on our behalf to the people proposing this territorial division.

I would take that to mean their prime concern is the preservation of their rights and customs, with which you have dealt, and the game aspects of the legislation.

Mr. de WEERDT: This is what I have tried to say.

Mr. TURNER: So anything you said beyond those subjects would be your own personal views in so far as this mandate is concerned?

Mr. de WEERDT: Well, you are a solicitor, as I am, and when you represent a client you do so to the best of your ability; you do not ask your client to tell you everything you say, but you take his general instructions and do the best you can.

Mr. TURNER: I agree with that but in so far as you express views in respect of the legislation beyond the terms of game or rights and customs of the Eskimos, you are expressing your own views; you have not any explicit instructions from them in this connection.

Mr. de WEERDT: I am instructed to give their personal views as a solicitor on their behalf.

Mr. TURNER: Yes, on the subjects mentioned in the telegram.

Mr. de WEERDT: On behalf of these Eskimos, as instructed by that telegram.

Mr. TURNER: I would interpret your mandate as limited by that telegram.

Mr. de WEERDT: And, my general instructions of 1961 as solicitor to the co-operative, if I might just add that.

Mr. TURNER: Yes, anything you were entitled to do before on their behalf, but we are trying to get the views of the north and in so far as that telegram reveals they wanted you to speak to the rights and customs of the Eskimos, and the game laws.

Mr. de WEERDT: Yes, and the protection of these things by the institution we may have as a result of these bills. We are not talking in a vacuum, although there is a bit of a vacuum up there now.

Mr. SIMPSON: In respect of that same point, would the witness not feel that the terms of that telegram, namely the rights and customs and privileges, was it?

Mr. TURNER: The rights and customs of the Eskimo, particularly game.

Mr. SIMPSON: Not particularly game. You are saying game or the rights and customs.

Mr. TURNER: Particularly game.

Mr. SIMPSON: All right, particularly game. So, if any changes were made to violate any game laws they would be tried, if these bills went through under a different system of justice from that which they are presently subjected to.

Mr. de WEERDT: That was one of my points I tried to get across.

Mr. SIMPSON: I think that would be a very important point.

Mr. TURNER: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, in respect of Mr. Simpson's comment, I can see that the witness is entitled to speak on behalf of the co-operative in respect of how the Eskimos rights and customs and the game laws are affected by the division, but he has not instructions to either oppose or approve division as division; he only has a mandate from his clients to discuss what these bills will do to Eskimo rights and customs, and the game laws.

Mr. de WEERDT: I will be perfectly sincere and will say that I certainly have not any instructions to say that division is a good thing or to say that division is a bad thing because, as I mentioned to you, the people up there have not had an opportunity to see your bills. You could say "division" but what does it mean to them? They are pretty practical people, and if you say division means you are going to put them in jail for shooting a caribou, then they will know what you are talking about.

Mr. TURNER: As far as you and I are concerned, they may be in favour of division if they were fully appraised of it.

Mr. de WEERDT: If they were fully appraised or you could appraise their leaders, men in whom they have confidence.

Mr. ROXBURGH: Mr. de Weerd, you referred to primitive Eskimos or Eskimos being on a primitive level; could you give us a rough estimate what, in your opinion, primitive means? Would it mean they are not educated?

Mr. de WEERDT: This is a difficult question to answer, because we perhaps have no way of really measuring this thing; we cannot qualify it in any way. I would suggest that you can obtain statistics from the departments concerned and possibly from learned men. There are many, many institutions around the world studying these matters and they have a continuing interest in the Eskimo. But, you gentlemen are pretty sophisticated and I am sure, as practical politicians, when it comes to handling statistics, you are well informed, and when you look at the statistics I would ask you to consider how they were derived.

Mr. ROXBURGH: That is fine; I was just inquisitive.

Mr. de WEERDT: I have come into contact with some very primitive people and I have come into contact with some amazingly sophisticated Eskimos.

Mr. RHÉAUME: At what period of time were you the crown prosecutor in the Northwest Territories?

Mr. de WEERDT: At the present time I am retained as an agent of the Minister of Justice to assist where required my partner who is now the crown attorney for the territories. I was crown attorney for a period of approximately five years and in that capacity I travelled around the country.

Mr. RHÉAUME: You suggested earlier you have been to practically every community in the Northwest Territories at least once and in many cases on numerous occasions.

Mr. de WEERDT: Yes.

Mr. RHÉAUME: Would you say that the merits or demerits of the division are well known and well understood in the western part of the Northwest Territories?

Mr. de WEERDT: So far as I have been able to determine. I am not a public opinion pollster and my contacts, wide as they may have been, are still limited, but I will say this, that of all the people I have spoken to—I have been unable to advise them so I have taken it upon myself to ask them how they feel about such a thing because I have not had the information with which to advise them myself—I can count on the fingers of my one hand the persons who have said they think it is a desirable development.

Mr. RHÉAUME: In other words, it is not generally known and generally understood what this is all about in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. de WEERDT: That would be my assessment.

Mr. RHÉAUME: Under the proposal Bills C-83 and C-84 would set up a territorial council in the eastern part of the north and would provide only two constituencies. This committee has heard evidence that it is impractical, indeed impossible, to give territorial franchise to the people not within the confines of those two constituencies. As a northerner, a man who has travelled extensively throughout the Arctic, do you believe that is a valid argument?

Mr. de WEERDT: I would not play down the difficulties. I know the federal returning officer during the last two elections really had a job, and he has never received sufficient recognition for the difficulties that he overcame.

Mr. TURNER: How long has it taken for the results to come in after the last election?

Mr. de WEERDT: It took us several months to get the official results from some of those distant points.

Mr. RHÉAUME: Would it have to take that time if in fact the normal means of retrieving ballot boxes had been followed through after April 8?

Mr. de WEERDT: I am not too familiar with that; however, I think that some of the difficulties could have been overcome more easily. As you know, I was the official agent for Mr. Rhéaume and I had some contact with the situation during the last election. This was the first time it was ever done, and the second time it was much more satisfactory. The present returning officer was my opposite number, the official agent for the Liberal candidate, and he has been around the country and I have talked to him. I may be talking out of turn here in referring to him specifically but if he wishes to restate what he said to me, he can appear. He said he agrees with me the majority of people he knows think the division is a lot of nonsense.

Mr. TURNER: You admit this is hearsay evidence which would not be acceptable in most other forums?

Mr. de WEERDT: Oh, yes, I know.

Mr. SIMPSON: A point was made about the difficulty in getting the results in. I think the witness mentioned three months.

In some of our provincial constituencies which have much better lines of communications, it sometimes takes days to get the results in. Would you say it would not be possible to get the results of these polls in from the Northwest Territories much quicker, though probably at greater expense, if an effort were made to go into these polls and fly the results out?

Mr. de WEERDT: We get the results effectively by wire very, very quickly; but if you had this country being run from within, with its lines of communication developed, I should think your parallel services, your air communications, and so on, being that much improved, it would speed this up enormously.

Mr. RHÉAUME: On a point of order; I would like to clear up something.

Mr. SIMPSON: I understand from the newspaper reports in some of our cities that the results never have come in.

Mr. RHÉAUME: I think it is important that this be cleared up for the benefit of the committee. While I understand precisely what the witness is saying in terms of the northern context, I think it is important for the committee to understand that the election results—

The CHAIRMAN: Would you not like the members of the committee to ask the questions?

Mr. RHÉAUME: I want to make a statement to clear up something. My point is that the election results themselves are in within a matter of hours of the closing of the polls, and when we speak about delay in getting results we are talking about the ballot boxes themselves coming back.

The CHAIRMAN: I believe the members understand that.

Mr. DINSDALE: Mr. Chairman, at one point in his evidence Mr. de Weerdt used the phrase, I believe, that he felt we were moving too quickly in terms of the problems of the north. I wonder whether he would be a little more explicit in respect of that observation. There has been some criticism in the southern press—which I do not suppose is too knowledgeable on matters pertaining to the north—that we have been moving too slowly in these matters. Do you mean we are moving too quickly in respect of division or in respect of giving greater autonomy and self-determination to the north? Would the witness elaborate on this?

Mr. de WEERDT: I will do my best. I was endeavouring to show, sir, that it was almost impossible for there to have been a discussion, a researching and examination of these specific bills since July, or whenever they were made available, because of the presently underdeveloped state of communications in the territories. I am not suggesting that these bills are proceeding too quickly in terms of the development of the political institutions. I am suggesting, in my respectful opinion, that definitely they maintain the status quo as to the basic essentials, and that we should see development right now regarding elective areas for the east. This is not going to benefit me; I will not be elected from there. However, it should benefit the people there.

With regard to the other branches of your question, I am not sure I understood them correctly. You mentioned autonomy; I do not believe I proposed that. I believe there still is room for a good deal of assistance and, perhaps in a number of areas under our present federal authority, certainly in respect of resources. In other words, what I am basically trying to suggest is that in respect of matters of a purely local nature other than resources there is a great deal to be said for giving every Canadian in the north a vote federally and territorially.

Mr. DINSDALE: So, in other words what you are saying is that before the territories are divided the people of the east should say whether or not they are in agreement with division or in respect of other aspects of the legislation?

Mr. de WEERDT: As you put that question, sir, I would say yes. I said to a committee member the other night it seemed to me we do not trust them enough; we do not rely upon them enough; we do not ask them what they want, but the fact that this committee is sitting here and hearing me at length is a step in the right direction.

Mr. TURNER: Mr. Rhéaume asked the witness whether he was a crown prosecutor or a crown attorney up there. Do you call your position crown prosecutor?

Mr. de WEERDT: Well, it is crown attorney in the departmental correspondence.

Mr. TURNER: I am interested in how, as a crown attorney, you are paid up there; is it by the day or do you have a retainer?

Mr. de WEERDT: A crown attorney is retained by the month. He is precluded from defending cases. He does a lot of little things such as making telephone calls, organizing and so on, for which he does not bill; the retainer is intended to cover that, and partly to compensate him for holding himself available to the crown. At times, I have worked as late as 2.30 a.m.

Mr. TURNER: Is he paid extra for cases?

Mr. de WEERDT: Oh yes, he is paid at the normal scale, the same scale that any other agent would get in the south. I operated for two years travelling around in a one engine airplane in the high Arctic on the same scale as a fellow down here would receive travelling around on a bus in Ottawa, but probably my chances of survival were greater, so I should not complain.

Mr. TURNER: What proportion of your firm's business is in the eastern Arctic, the district covered by the proposed Nunassiat.

Mr. de WEERDT: You heard Mr. Justice Sissons say that we have two circuits there a year; there have been some years where we have only taken one and there was one year where we took four, so to average it out, it would be two circuits a year. In the eastern part we may take four or five days normally. Now, averaging that out at \$100 a day you can see it is not going to keep our firm busy very long when we have an overhead of \$60 a day. I have run up quite an overhead while I have been here.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions?

Mr. SIMPSON: Mr. Chairman, in respect of this same subject of remuneration I would like to ask you, Mr. Chairman, if Mr. de Weerdts was asked to come to the committee?

The CHAIRMAN: He was an approved witness, I believe.

Mr. SIMPSON: I was wondering about his expense of coming down here and whether or not this would be taken care of?

The CHAIRMAN: The committee had not included his name with those for whom it was agreed to pay expenses.

Mr. SIMPSON: I thought this was right and I wanted to clarify it. I think that the evidence given by Mr. de Weerdts has been very helpful to this committee and I would like to move that we treat this witness the same as the others, in respect of expenses.

Mr. RHÉAUME: Mr. Chairman, I will second that motion, particularly in view of the fact that the witness has attempted to confine his terms of reference to the west Baffin Eskimo Co-operative and knowing about this organization located at Cape Dorset I realize that it could not afford to pay solicitor's fees.

The CHAIRMAN: We have not paid any fees to anyone.

Mr. RHÉAUME: I am not suggesting we pay fees. I am just suggesting that the witness' air passage be paid.

Mr. SIMPSON: Mr. Chairman, before the motion is put to a vote perhaps I could ask Mr. de Weerd't whether his sole reason for coming to Ottawa was to appear before this committee, or did he have some other business?

Mr. de WEERDT: I thought at one time that you may have difficulty getting people to come down here and I felt it was very important to try to get across to you that if you could not get northerners to come here you might try to come up to the north to see the situation for yourself. I sent a wire to you suggesting that I would come if you would be good enough to hear me. Since that time I understand you have had some success in bringing people here. I communicated with the west Baffin Eskimo Co-operative committee to inform them that this committee was sitting, and that there were bills before the House of Commons which might affect their rights and customs, and asked them if they would instruct me to come to Ottawa on their behalf.

Mr. TURNER: Mr. de Weerd't, have you a copy of the telegram you sent to that committee?

Mr. de WEERDT: I am afraid I do not have it with me, Mr. Turner.

Mr. TURNER: I wonder whether we could have that telegram made a part of the Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence of this committee?

Mr. ROXBURGH: Mr. Simpson, you were referring to the expenses of the witness, were you?

Mr. SIMPSON: Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: There is a motion before the committee moved by Mr. Simpson and seconded by Mr. Rhéaume to pay the travelling and living expenses of the witness.

Mr. RHÉAUME: The motion was to pay the travelling expenses and reasonable living expenses of the witness.

Mr. SIMPSON: My intent was to follow the procedure that has been followed in respect of other witnesses.

The CHAIRMAN: All those in favour please indicate?

Motion agreed to.

I declare the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. TURNER: Mr. Chairman, I should like to ask that you direct that the telegram prompting the response from the west Baffin Eskimo Co-operative be made part of the record.

Mr. de WEERDT: I am volunteering this information, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, this telegram will be mailed back to us and will become part of the evidence.

Mr. TURNER: Mr. Chairman, if this is the last hearing of this committee before Christmas I should like to move that the Chairman on behalf of the committee report progress to the House of Commons and recommend to the house that the committee be reconvened to continue its reference or references in the new session.

Mr. DINSDALE: I second that motion.

The CHAIRMAN: All those in favour please indicate?

Motion agreed to.

I declare the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. TURNER: Before we conclude I should like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas, including the witness, and express unanimous appreciation for the way in which the Chairman has handled these hearings.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you. May I now wish everyone a Merry Christmas and the very best to their families, including the reporting staff.

Mr. DINSDALE: Mr. Chairman, before we leave I trust that the steering committee will give some consideration to the suggestion made by the witness this morning that it would be helpful if arrangements could be made to have this committee visit the north?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, but as you know, we will be defunct in another two or three days. We hope that the house will reconvene this committee at the next session.

Mr. DINSDALE: I think the witness' suggestion is a very good one and, if followed, would prove useful to the deliberations of this committee.

The CHAIRMAN: The Chairman noticed the great approval in respect of that suggestion.



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